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ABSTRACT

This document is designed to fill major information voids in the field of adoption and to provide prospective adoptive parents with reliable data on which to base decisions. The factbook contains four major types of new information: (1) a frank discussion of the issues concerning adoption -- including costs; tax regulations; transracial adoption; foreign adoption; foster care; pro's and con's of public, private, and individual adoption; characteristics of adoptive children, biological parents, and adoptive parents; and business firms and adoption benefits; (2) adoption regulations -- including state regulations; Immigration and Naturalization Service Regulations for foreign adoptions; regulations on access to state adoption records; legislation on adoption registries; and regulations on surrogate motherhood; (3) adoption statistics -- including previously unpublished data from the National Committee for Adoption's national survey of adoption; previously unpublished Immigration and Naturalization Service data on foreign adoptions; a new synthesis of trend statistics on adoption; and recommendations for a sensible federal/state adoption data collection program; and (4) adoption resources -- including lists of about 600 adoption specialists, support groups, organizations, and programs designed to help lay persons and professionals at the local, state, and national level obtain access to the experts. A short list of publications available from the National Committee for Adoption concludes the document. (RH)

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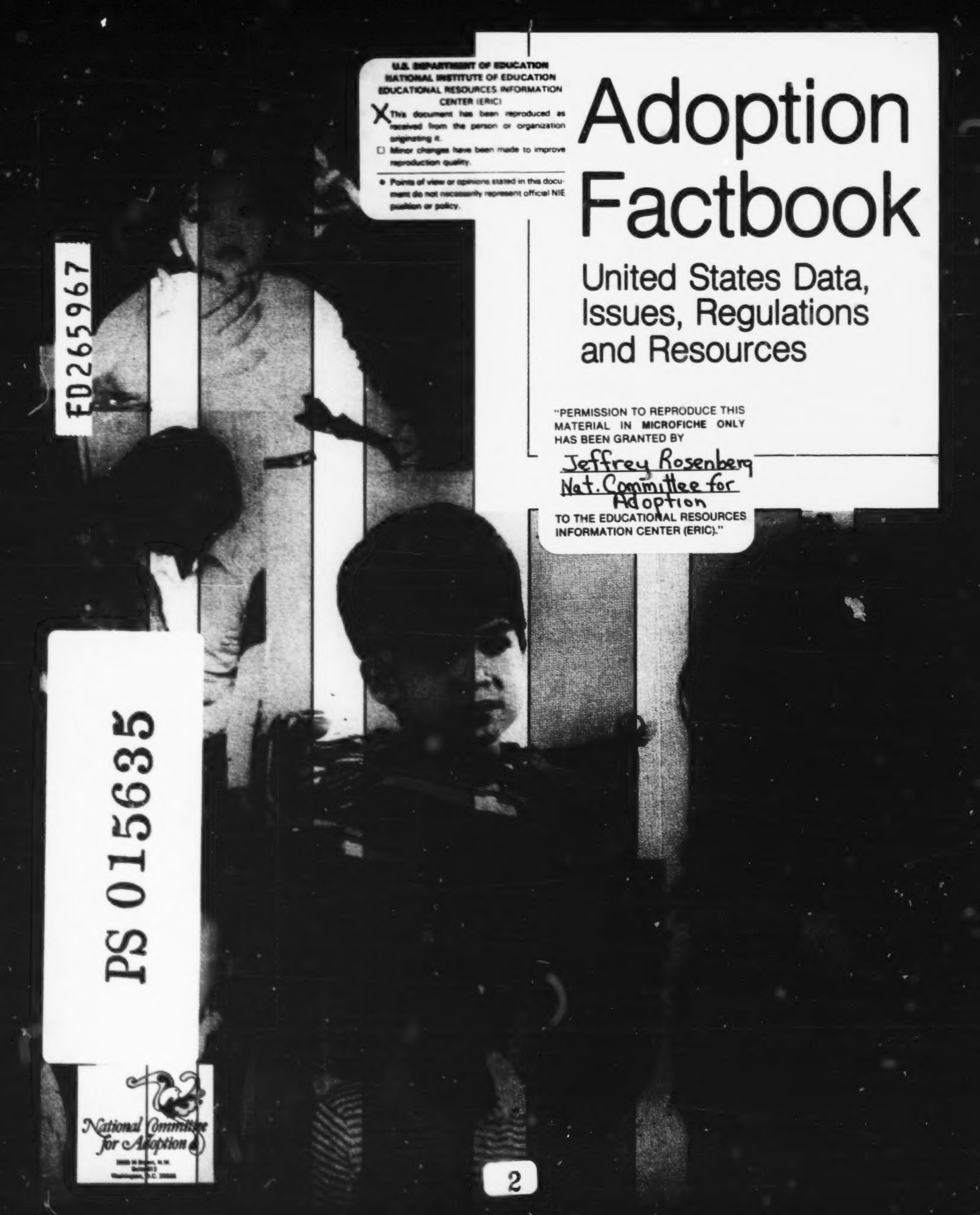

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Adoption Factbook

United States Data, Issues, Regulations and Resources

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Adoption Factbook

United States Data,
Issues, Regulations
and Resources

Prepared by the
National Committee For Adoption
2025 M Street, N.W.
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November 1985

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Contents

Contents 2

Forward 5

Acknowledgments 7

I. Introduction

A. Why this Factbook? 9
B. National Facts About Adoption - *Adoption Factbook* Highlights 10
C. Goals of the National Committee For Adoption 17
D. Social Trends Affecting the "Adoption Option" 18
E. Seven Ways We Promote the "Adoption Option" 20

II. Issues in Adoption

A. What Does It Cost to Adopt? 23
B. Rights of the Biological Father 26
C. Foreign Adoptions 28
D. Do's and Dont's for Those Interested in Adopting a Foreign Child 30
E. Transracial Adoption 32
F. Facilitating Black Adoptions 35
G. Adoption and Foster Care for Special Needs Children 41
H. Special Considerations in American Indian Adoptions 46
I. Risks in Independent Adoption Arrangements 47
J. Public Agency, Private Agency, or Individually Arranged Adoptions: Risks and Benefits 49
K. Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents 54
L. Birth Mothers Who Place Their Children for Adoption 57
M. Characteristics of Adopted Children 62
N. Adopted Children and Biological Parents Who Seek Each Other 65
O. Business Firms and Adoption Benefits 68
P. Tax Laws Affecting Adoptions 72

III. Adoption Regulations

A. Summary of State Adoption Regulations Based on National Committee For Adoption Survey 74
B. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant 86
C. Model Law on Adoption Registries 91
D. Survey on State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records: 1983-1985 92

IV. Adoption Statistics

A. Introduction: National Committee For Adoption Survey 101
B. Overview of Adoptions in 1982 102
C. Percentages of Related and Unrelated Adoptions 102
D. Unrelated Adoptions by Public Agencies, Private Agencies, and Private Individuals 102
E. Unrelated Adoptions of Healthy Infants 102
F. Unrelated Adoptions of Children from Other Countries, of Children with Special Needs, and by Foster Parents 103
G. State Trends in Adoption - 1972-1982 103
H. National Trends in Adoption - 1951-1982 103

I. National Trends in Public Agency, Private Agency, and Independent Adoptions - 1951-1982 104
J. Countries of Origin for Foreign Adoptions - 1979 to1984 104
K. Foreign Adoptions to U.S. States - 1982 to 1984 104
L. Characteristics of Foreign Adoptees to the U.S. - Sex, Age, and Major Countries of Origin 104
M. Better Federal and State Data on Adoption Needed 105

List of Tables

1. Total related and unrelated adoptions: U.S.: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey 108
2. Number and percentage distribution of related and unrelated adoptions for each State, Division, and the U.S.: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey 110
3. Number and percentage distribution of types of unrelated adoptions for each State, Division and the U.S.: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey 112
4. Number of unrelated adoptions of healthy infants and as a percentage of unrelated adoptions, 1982 live births, and 1982 births to unmarried women for each State, Division, and U.S.: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey 114
5. Unrelated adoptions of children from other countries, unrelated adoptions of children with special needs, and unrelated adoptions of children by foster parents as a percentage of unrelated adoptions for each State, Division and the U.S.: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey 116
6. Percentage change in total related and unrelated adoptions by State and Division: U.S., 1972 and 1982 118
7. National estimates of relationships of the petitioner to the adopted child: U.S., 1951 to 1982 120
8. National estimates of adoptions by unrelated petitioners and type of agency making adoptive placement: U.S., 1951 to 1982 121
9. Immigrant orphans admitted to the U.S. by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1979-1984 122
10. Number of foreign adoptions, percent distribution, and 1982-1984 percentage change for each State, Division, and the U.S. 126
11. Number and percent of foreign adoptions in the U.S. according to sex, age, and major countries of origin: 1984 128

Appendices

A. Inventory of Adoption Agencies Which Support the National Committee For Adoption 129
B. Organizations and Resources
    1. State Employed Adoption Specialists 132
    2. National Organizations 134
    3. Relevant National Health Organizations 134
    4. National and Regional Adoption Exchanges 135
    5. State Contacts for Adoption Support Groups 136
    6. State Adoption Exchanges and Photolisting Books (Waiting Children and Families) 140
    7. Infertility Problems 142
    8. Single Parents 142
    9. Interracial and Intercultural Support Groups 143
    10. Agencies and Programs for Black Adoptions 143
    11. Hispanic Programs 144

12. Indian Native American Programs 144
13. Special Needs Children 145
14. Family Builders Agencies 145
15. Selected intercountry Adoption Agencies 146
16. Intercountry Adoption Groups 147
17. Groups Interested in Foster Care and Adoption 147
18. Search Groups 147

C. Survey of State Activity Regarding Surrogate Motherhood 148
D. Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by the National Committee For Adoption 152
  1. Reason for Survey 152
  2. Survey Methodology - Data Collections 152
  3. Survey Procedures for Data Cleanup 152
  4. Survey Limitations and Undercounts 154
  5. Questionnaires and Cover Letters for National Committee For Adoption Survey 156
  6. Sources of Data Shown in Table 1 159
E. Order Form for Publications and Materials Available from the NCFA Bookstore 168

Forward

Prior to the publication of the National Committee For Adoption's FACTBOOK, there was no comprehensive source of statistics, regulations, and facts on adoption in the United States. The last federal report on adoption was based on 1975 data. If one looks at the Statistical Abstract of the United States for 1985, nothing appears on adoption in its 991 pages. Even the fragmented data which some federal agencies have collected pertaining to adoption, such as that concerning children from other countries who are adopted by U.S. citizens, is not included. A brief look at what data has been gathered, through federal government efforts, is instructive. The U.S. Department of Transportation accurately reports the number of boating accidents. The U.S National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration tells us that American fisheries processed 13 million pounds of Atlantic Ocean perch. Even the U.S. International Trade Commission has a report on the numbers of robots sold by the U.S. domestic suppliers, by type of robot. It is ironic that in this statistically-rich society, no agency of the federal government routinely collects statistics about adoption and related services.

More than 140,000 children are adopted each year. If one adds the number of other persons directly affected by those adoptions, at least 420,000 additional persons are affected. And in addition to these 660,000 people, billions of dollars of tax revenues are spent for single parents receiving welfare benefits alone.

For years the National Committee For Adoption has encouraged and prodded various federal agencies to collect, analyse, and disseminate adoption data. Even the U.S. Congress needed the data to make policy decisions based on hard numbers instead of vague estimates, and requested that better adoption data be made available. By 1984, it became obvious to the National Committee For Adoption that too little was being done. When we suggested to various officials that the task of gathering the data was not insurmountable, the responses were that such a survey could not be done without a level of effort and expense that was unwarranted, and that federal statistical budgets were being drastically reduced.

In this context, the National Committee For Adoption accepted the challenge and set about, within its limited resources, to demonstrate that a wealth of adoption data did exist and could be assembled into a statistically useful report. We chose 1982 a the baseline year for our national survey because our discussions with various state officials convinced us that 1982 would yield the most complete data available.

Over the past year, we surveyed all the States and compiled the data which our statistical consultants have used to produce the tables in the FACTBOOK. Clearly, we have demonstrated that national adoption statistics can still be gathered; our small national voluntary organization has done so.

We are pleased that a multi-agency working group within the federal government has recommended the resumption of federal adoption data collection. "Adoption Information Improvement Workgroup Recommendations," a 16-page report completed April 17, 1985, essentially endorses our views on data collection.

We hereby encourage you to write the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Room 615F, Humphrey Building, 200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., 20201, in support of resumption of federal adoption data collection. If HHS resumes the collection of adoption statistics, NCFA will gladly play a supportive role.

It is our hope that this FACTBOOK's rich source of data and materials relating to adoption, services for young, single, or troubled parents, and services to couples or singles who would like to adopt children will stimulate a careful examination of all aspects of policy relating to these services. We also hope that subsequent collections of adoption statistics will be gathered and published with the involvement, support and resources of the federal government. Reliable statistics on our children and families are at least as important as data on boating accidents, fish, and robots.

William L. Pierce

William L. Pierce, Ph.D.
President

Acknowledgments

The data in this ADOPTION FACTBOOK were gathered through the extraordinary efforts of a few dedicated staff members of the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA). The major role of data gathering was handled by Ione J. Simpson, MSW, formerly NCFA's Director of Public Policy. Additional work was done by Josephine A. Rattien, MSW. And throughout the process, Dawn Bes was a patient and efficient coordinator of the many administrative and clerical details connected with the project.

We also wish to acknowledge the assistance of hundreds of individuals in the States, agencies, and localities we contacted. These persons were enthusiastic and cooperative--and actually pleased that these data were being collected. The public servants who responded to our inquiries are too numerous to list, but this project could not have been done without their assistance.

We are very grateful for the statistical expertise of Dr. Paul Placek, who advised NCFA's staff on handling the mass of data presented here. He is a survey statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics, and with appropriate clearances, consulted with us in his private capacity; the endorsement of NCHS is neither intended nor inferred. We hope we have adequately stressed the strengths and limitations of the data, and interpreted them accurately.

NCFA's member agencies and board, as well as our supporting foundations, also deserve thanks for encouraging us to undertake this effort.

Last but not least, we wish to acknowledge the assistance of Jeffrey R. Rosenberg, MSW, who helped with the final stages of preparation of this document.

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I. Introduction

A. Why this Factbook?

This ADOPTION FACTBOOK is designed to fill major information voids in the field of adoption. On June 25, 1985, the National Committee For Adoption testified before the Senate Committee on Labor and Human Resources on the topic of "Barriers to Adoption", and submitted 28 pages of written testimony. This ADOPTION FACTBOOK is designed to be a positive and constructive effort by NCFA to address the first and foremost barrier which we identified--lack of reliable data on which to base decisions.

Since the NCFA was founded in 1980, it has become painfully obvious that there was no one source of authoritative, factual information about adoption. Federal data collection on adoption ceased in 1975. While National, State, and local adoption groups occasionally publish useful brochures, none are comprehensive and most are colloquial. Still, access to factual information is essential to rational decisions by adoptive parents, biological parents, agencies, support groups, social workers, attorneys, and policymakers. Until now, this information has not been available at all, or readily available in one place. NCFA's ADOPTION FACTBOOK, the most comprehensive available anywhere, contains four major types of new information:

1. A frank discussion of the issues concerning adoption--including costs; tax regulations; transracial adoption; foreign adoption; foster care; pro's and con's of public, private, and individual adoption; characteristics of adoptive children, biological parents, and adoptive parents; and business firms and adoption benefits.

2. Adoption regulations--including State regulations; Immigration and Naturalization Service Regulations for foreign adoptions; regulations on access to State adoption records; legislation on adoption registries; and regulations on surrogate motherhood.

3. Adoption statistics--including previously unpublished data from the National Committee For Adoption's national survey of adoption; previously unpublished Immigration and Naturalization Service data on foreign adoptions; a new synthesis of trend statistics on adoption; and our recommendations for a sensible Federal/State adoption data collection program.

4. Adoption resources--including lists of about 600 adoption specialists, support groups, organizations, and programs designed to help lay persons and professionals at the local, State, and national level obtain access to the experts.

Every effort has been made to supply facts rather than rhetoric. Where information is based on NCFA's professional judgment rather than impartial surveys, we have so stated explicitly. Our intention is to supply an unbiased resource which can be used by all--whether "liberal" or "conservative", Republican or Democrat, "pro-choice" or "pro-life". This ADOPTION FACTBOOK is biased only in that it is pro-adoption, and is intended as an authoritative guide for assisting with successful adoption placements in which the adoptive child's best welfare is placed first over all other considerations.

B. National Facts About Adoption - *Adoption Factbook* Highlights

Adoption is a legal procedure in which a person or couple takes a child that is not their offspring into the family and raises the child as their own; this child may be unrelated to either adoptive parent, may be the child of one member of the couple, or may be related in some other way to the adoptive parents. Adoption severs all legal ties between the adoptee and his or her birth parents (except when one birth parent is a member of the adopting couple), and establishes such ties between the adoptee and the adoptive parents. Legally, the adoptee has the same status with respect to his or her adoptive parents as do any nonadopted siblings.

For the most part, adoption in the United States is overseen by the States, subject to State laws and under the jurisdiction of State courts. Federal laws concerning actual adoption procedures exist only in special cases: adoption of American Indian children, which is controlled by the Indian Child Welfare Act, and adoption of foreign children, which is subject to U.S. immigration law. In addition, several Federal programs provide funds to States to use for adoption subsidies, adoption services, and related services such as foster care and family counseling.

This ADOPTION FACTBOOK deals comprehensively with adoption issues, regulations, statistics, and resources. The following "highlights" summarize much of what is in this FACTBOOK.

I. Introduction

- Information on adoption issues, regulations, data, and resources are needed by biological and adoptive parents, State health and welfare officials, attorneys, adoption specialists, and policymakers--this ADOPTION FACTBOOK attempts to fill that need.

- The National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) promotes the "adoption option" in numerous ways, and protects children in adoption proceedings, encourages adoption registries, assists with adoption legislation, disseminates useful information, recommends sound adoption practices, and conducts research.

- Social trends which have profoundly affected adoption include legalized abortion, the sexual revolution, mainstreaming of pregnant girls in the school system, strengthening of the rights of putative fathers, reduction of the stigmas of out-of-wedlock childbearing and welfare, increases in female headed households, and the closing of many comprehensive maternity homes.

II. Issues

- Adoption fees range from "no charge" to well over $10,000 (to cover medical care, maternity home care, infant foster care, counseling, and legal fees).

- Supreme Court decisions such as Stanley v. State of Illinois and Caban v. Mohammed have strengthened putative fathers' rights and made adoption more cumbersome.

- Foreign adoption, once a solution to emergency situations, is now an established adoption alternative--and over 8,000 foreign adoptions from other countries to the U.S. took place in 1984.

- Foreign adoption requires a homestudy, immigration documents, and application to an agency or orphanage.

- Foreign adoption does require advance reading and consultation, working with a reputable agency, and insisting on full cost accounting--don't evade established procedures, pay "finders fees", or become involved in "black market" adoption.

- Black children constitute 14 percent of the child population, 34 percent of foster care, and 41 percent of children free for adoption.

- Transracial adoption is controversial, yet remains a viable alternative when approached sensitively and realistically; the permanence of an adoptive home need not be withheld from a child because a home of the same race or ethnicity is not available.

- Recent national statistics on transracial adoption are not available, but a 1973 survey of 434 agencies found that of 4,655 black children placed, almost one-fourth were placed with white families, and the remaining children were placed with black families.

- The 345 agencies which responded in both the 1972 and 1973 adoption surveys reported a 15 percent decrease in placements overall, but a 14 percent decrease in black children placed with black families, and a 29 percent decrease in black children placed with white families. This badly dated information suggests the need for more current data.

- State laws, rules, and policies on color and culture-matching in adoptive and foster care placements vary tremendously, according to a 1982 survey by the Committee to End Racism in Michigan's Child Care System. For example, over one-fifth of States had a requirement that the cultural and/or racial identity of the child be preserved in the prospective family.

- Families adopting transracially should carefully consider their own motivations, changes that their family will experience, reactions of others, the long term impact, and how they will help the child preserve his racial heritage.

- Regarding adoption and foster care for special needs children, too many American children linger in foster care and do not become free for adoption. Although 274,000 children were in foster care in 1982, and many of these children were free for adoption, only 9,591 adoptions of children by foster parents occurred in that year.

- The Indian Child Welfare Act mandates special Federal requirements in American Indian adoptions, but little factual or statistical information is available to monitor its implementation.

- Independent adoptions involve extra risks in these areas: a greater chance of involvement in the "black market", loss of confidentiality, infringement on child's right to permanency, custody fights, unacceptable couples may adopt, lack of full health information on the child, uncompleted legal processes, and inadequate counseling.

- Public agency, private agency, and independent adoptions each have special risks and benefits. For example, public agency adoptions tend to be least expensive, independent adoptions are most expensive, and private agency adoptions fall in between.

- Data from both the 1973 and 1982 National Surveys of Family Growth (NSFG) suggests that women who adopt tend to be older, white, at higher educational and income levels, be noncontraceptively sterile or have fecundity problems, have no previous births, and work part-time.

- Overall, 2.1 percent of ever-married women 15-44 years of age in the 1982 NSFG had adopted a child.

- The 1982 NSFG found that about 6 percent of premarital births were placed for adoption--12.2 percent of births to white mothers, but only 0.4 percent of births to black mothers. White mothers whose fathers had some college were three times as likely to place the child for adoption (19.5 percent) as mothers whose fathers' education was less than high school (only 6.3 percent placed for adoption).

- Mothers who received pregnancy counseling were much more likely to place the child for adoption (13.9 percent) than mothers who did not receive counseling (1.5 percent).

- The 1982 NSFG found that unmarried biological mothers who made adoption plans advanced further educationally, were more likely to subsequently marry, and were less likely to receive public assistance than birthmothers who kept the child.

- The 1982 NSFG found that adopted children enjoy more socioeconomic advantages than children who remain with their unmarried birthmothers--they have better educated, older mothers, and they live in families with much higher income.

- Only 1-2 percent of adoptees search for their biological parents.

- The National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) favors the registry concept in which adoptive children and biological parents may independently register the fact that they want to have a meeting; if all parties agree, a State social service agency arranges the meeting.

- NCFA believes that completely open records (in which adoptees may obtain their original birth certificates containing the names of their biological parents, or, birth parents are given access to records which help them locate the adoptive child) violates the birthparents' privacy, upsets the adoptive family's stability, and may reduce the child's feeling of permanency.

- A 1983 survey of 253 companies found that 90 percent allowed maternity leave for the biological mother, but only 25 percent allowed paid or unpaid adoption leave to women who adopted a child.

- 1984 Federal tax law allows a deduction of up to $1,500 if you legally adopt a child with special needs.

- Massachusetts, California, Maryland, Minnesota, Wisconsin, South Carolina, and perhaps others permit State tax deductions for adoption expenses.

III. Regulations

- NCFA's inventory of adoption facts and regulations reveals enormous State-to-State variability. For example, in Alaska, independent adoptions are legal, the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and the final adoption is 30 days, and the adoptee may get a copy of his birth certificate at age 18. In Wisconsin, independent adoptions may not be done by attorneys, the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and the final adoption is 6 months, and the adoptee may obtain a genetic, medical, and social history at age 18--but may not obtain the names of birth parents.

- Immigration and Naturalization Service petition procedures for adopting a foreign infant require the completion of Form I-600A, Form I-600, Form FD-258, and other proofs, decrees, and evidence.

- NCFA's "Model Law on Adoption Registries" attempts to balance the need for privacy with the need for information, but may not be needed because existing legislation may serve 98 percent of those affected by adoption quite well.

- NCFA's "Survey of State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records" reviews, on a State-by-State basis, specific bills concerning adoption, and discusses the varying view points of groups such as the Council on Accreditation, the Child Welfare League of America, the Adoptees Liberty Movement Association, Concerned United Birthparents, American Adoption Congress, and the Washington Adoptees Rights Movement.

IV. Adoption Statistics

- NCFA conducted its own national survey based on the 1982 data year because Federal data collection ceased in 1975 and a desperate need had developed for more current adoption data by policymakers, adoption agencies, social workers, attorneys, health professionals, researchers, biological parents, and adoptive parents. NCFA estimates that 141,861 adoptions occurred in the U.S. in 1982--91,141 were related adoptions, and 50,720 were unrelated adoptions.

- Of 50,720 unrelated adoptions, 19,428 were arranged by public agencies, 14,549 were arranged by private agencies, and 16,743 were arranged by private individuals.

- Of 50,720 unrelated adoptions, 17,602 were unrelated adoptions of healthy infants, 5,707 were unrelated adoptions of children from other countries, 14,005 were unrelated adoptions of children with special needs, and 9,591 were adoptions of children by foster parents (there is overlap between these categories).

- NCFA believes that the estimate of 17,602 unrelated adoptions of healthy infants in particular may be an undercount, and should be regarded as a minimum or conservative estimate.

- The largest number of unrelated adoptions occurred in Texas (5,176), California (4,383), New York (3,370), and Illinois (3,242); the fewest occurred in Vermont (172), North Dakota (165), Delaware (110), and Wyoming (83).

- Unrelated adoptions of healthy infants represent less than one-half of one percent (0.48 percent) of 1982 U.S. live births, and represent only 2.46 percent of all live births to unmarried women.

- The 5,707 unrelated adoptions of children from other countries represents 11.3 percent of the 50,720 unrelated adoptions in the U.S.

- 1972-1982 trends reveal a 4.6 percent drop in total adoptions (from 148,700 in 1972 to 141,861 in 1982), but a 22.4 percent drop in unrelated adoptions (from 65,335 in 1972 to 50,720 in 1982).

- Total adoptions have fluctuated dramatically over the past three decades, from 72,000 in 1951, to 114,000 in 1961, to a peak of 175,000 in 1970, declined to 129,000 in 1975, and then rose to 141,861 in 1982.

- Unrelated adoptions have fluctuated in a similar fashion, from 33,800 in 1951, to 61,600 in 1961, to a peak of 89,200 in 1970, declined to 47,700 in 1975, and then rose slightly to 50,720 in 1982.

- Foreign adoptions have fluctuated but recently risen, from 4,323 in 1973, up to 7,051 in 1976, down to 5,707 in 1982, and up again to 8,327 in 1984--the highest number recorded in the past decade.

- In 1984, there were only 79 foreign adoptions from Europe, but 6,251 from Asia, 8 from Africa, 9 from Oceania, 1,026 from North and Central America, and 954 from South America.

- Reflecting the 45.5 percent increase in foreign adoption from 1982-1984 (from 5,707 to 8,306), all but one State reported increases, and 18 States registered increases of 100.0 percent or more.

- In 1984, the largest numbers of foreign adoptees went to New York (921), Minnesota (645), Michigan (580), and California (557)--the smallest numbers went to Montana (15), New Mexico (14), Wyoming (12), South Dakota (12), and Nevada (9).

- Of the over 8,000 foreign adoptees in 1984, about 60 percent were female, 60 percent were infants, and 60 percent were from Korea (there is overlap between these categories).

- Only 10 foreign countries (Korea, Columbia, India, Philippines, El Salvador, Mexico, Chile, Honduras, Brazil, and Guatemala) account for 92.3 percent of foreign adoptions to the U.S.--all other countries combined contribute the other 7.7 percent.

- NCFA concurs with all seven of the major recommendations made by the Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services' Adoption Improvement Workgroup made in April 1985, as follows. The Federal government (1) should conduct an annual adoption survey, (2) study adoption service providers, (3) add new adoption items to Federal surveys, (4) study the decision making process of birth parents, (5) examine the full range of adoption services, (6) conduct comparative research on adopted children vis-a-vis children who remain with birth parents, and (7) review adoption research with its implications for policy and practice.

- NCFA stands ready to be a willing and supportive partner in such research, and strongly encourages the initiation of these studies.

Appendices

- NCFA has enumerated over 100 nonprofit adoption agencies in nearly every State which support NCFA and its goals.

- NCFA has named at least one State employed adoption specialist for each State.

- NCFA has specified all ten Regional Offices of Human Development Service for Children, Youth and Families.

- NCFA has identified various national organizations which promote the cause of adoption.

- NCFA has called attention to relevant national health organizations which provide information and referral services helpful to those adopting special needs children.

- NCFA has recognized over a dozen national and regional adoption exchanges which promote adoption.

- NCFA has listed, within every State, numerous contacts and adoption support groups--approximately 600 in all.

- NCFA has inventoried over 30 State photolisting books (waiting lists of children and families).

- NCFA has identified two organizations which counsel infertile couples, and help them understand alternatives such as adoption.

- NCFA has named a networking service for single adults who wish to adopt.
- NCFA has listed two dozen agencies which have specialized programs to recruit black families for adoption.
- NCFA has recognized four agencies which focus on Hispanic adoption.
- NCFA has called attention to three organizations which promote Indian Native American adoption.
- NCFA has specified over a dozen agencies which assist with special needs adoptions.
- NCFA has listed seven family builders agencies.
- NCFA has named dozens of intercountry adoption agencies and parent support groups.
- NCFA has identified a half a dozen associations particularly interested in foster care adoption.
- NCFA has named several search groups which assist adoptive children and biological parents locate each other.
- NCFA has reviewed, on a State-by-State basis, the regulations on surrogate motherhood, and identified the controversies and issues involved.

C. Goals of the National Committee For Adoption

The National Committee For Adoption will

1. promote to the public adoption as a positive option of choice for young, single or troubled parents.

2. protect all children in any adoption proceeding by working toward having all future adoptions handled only by public or licensed, not-for-profit adoption agencies.

3. promote appropriate practice in the field of adoption and adolescent pregnancy with the media, lawmakers, policymakers, the human services field and the general public.

4. support the creation of State-level mutual-consent, voluntary adoption registries through State legislation.

5. monitor the development of State adoption legislation to assure use of the principles of the Federal Model Act for the Adoption of Children with Special Needs as a guideline.

6. operate a variety of information services for those interested in adoption for infants, for young, single or troubled parents, for America's waiting children, and for children from other countries including:

   - the NATIONAL ADOPTION HOTLINE (202) 463-7563 with referrals to member agencies
   - newsletters focused on adoption and services to unmarried parents
   - bi-weekly MEMOs and advisory materials and bulletins
   - other analyses, manuals, directories and materials
   - discounts on materials, books and other resources published by others
   - current developments in court cases and legislative developments affecting adoption and adolescent pregnancy

7. promote excellence in practice through appropriate standards and accreditation.

8. through consultation, provide information about and training needed to help agencies and individuals cope with changes in practice.

9. support continuation of the Adolescent Family Life Demonstration Projects Law.

10. review existing research and do new research, as needed, to bolster appropriate agency practice.

11. respond, as necessary and appropriate, to any contingency which would affect the field of adoption for infants, for young, single or troubled parents, for America's waiting children and for children from other countries.

(Approved at NCFA's Fourth Annual Meeting April 24, 1984)

D. Social Trends Affecting the "Adoption Option"

In 1972, there were 3,258,411 U.S. live births, of which 403,200 were out-of-wedlock (National Center for Health Statistics: "Summary Report, Final Natality Statistics, 1972." Monthly Vital Statistics Report. (HRA)75-1120, Vol. 23, No. 8, Supplement, Oct. 31, 1974); and 65,335 unrelated adoptions occurred that year (see table 6, this FACTBOOK). In 1982, there were 3,680,537 U.S. live births, of which 715,227 were out-of-wedlock (National Center for Health Statistics, "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1982." Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 33, No. 6, Supplement, Sept. 28, 1984.), yet only 50,720 unrelated adoptions occurred according to NCFA's 1982 survey.

At least seven social trends in the 1980's may have caused adoption to be chosen less often as a desirable option. Some of these trends are buttressed by legal decisions which have made adoption more complicated, adoption services more expensive, or otherwise affected promotion of the "adoption option".

1. The legalization of abortion means that women can make confidential decisions to terminate pregnancy--and often no one, except the doctor, knows. The 1,573,920 abortions which occurred in the United States in 1982 (S. K. Henshaw et.al., "Abortion Services in the United States, 1981 and 1982", Family Planning Perspectives. Vol. 16, No. 3, May/June 1984, pp. 119-127) reduces the potential number of adoptive children.

2. The impact of the "sexual revolution" and the "pill generation" in the media on the youth culture may have caused many to mistakenly believe that unplanned pregnancies will cease, or that teens who engage in sexual relations are usually behaving "responsibly". From this myth it follows that services to unmarried parents are becoming less necessary.

3. Title IX of the education law requires school districts to offer schooling to pregnant girls within the 'mainstream' of the school. While this is an advancement of access to education for young pregnant women, it results in less privacy for young women who carry their babies to term and who might be considering adoption. If immature friends and peers participate in the young woman's adoption decision, it may be more difficult for her to make a responsible decision. Coming back to school from the hospital without a baby is "unthinkable" to many teens.

4. The rights of putative fathers have increased significantly due to Supreme Court decisions Stanley v. Illinois (1972) and Caban v. Mohammed (1979), and due to the States' response to these cases. In most States today, notification about the intention of the mother to relinquish the baby for adoption must be given to a putative father. A right to a hearing to determine the fitness of the father before proceeding with the adoption is also required in many States. It is ironic that while a woman can unilaterally choose a confidential abortion, she does not have the unilateral right to place the child for adoption. Notification and recognition of the putative father is a painful and complex process for many pregnant, young women.

Deciding to raise the baby herself relieves the young mother of this ordeal, and consequently reduces the number of adoptive infants.

5. The stigmas of out-of-wedlock childbearing and welfare are reduced, possibly because both are more common. During the late 1960's and 1970's, AFDC and Medicaid benefits for pregnant, single mothers have become well established and well used. In 1982, 19.4 percent of all births occurred out of wedlock (National Center for Health Statistics: "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1982." Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 33, No. 6, Supplement, Sept. 28, 1984), up from 5.3 percent in 1960 and 10.7 percent in 1970 (National Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics of the United States, 1980 Vol. 1 Natality. DHHS Pub. No. (PHS) 85-1100. Public Health Service. Washington, D.C. GPO, 1984, table 1-31). In 1982, among white teens, 36.5 percent of births were out of wedlock as compared with 86.9 percent of births for black teens. The availability of welfare and medical assistance to help these unmarried teens raise their infants may reduce the number of adoptable infants.

6. The number of female headed households has increased due to the rise in divorce rates and the increase in out-of-wedlock births. Many girls may not feel compelled to seriously consider adoption because they themselves were raised in female-headed households and view their mothers as acceptable role models. And divorce, which cuts across all socio-economic groups, makes single parenting more socially acceptable as an option.

7. Many comprehensive maternity homes have closed. The financial costs and professional challenge of maintaining high-quality, separate, residential, educational, and medical facilities for young, pregnant girls has resulted in the closing down of many comprehensive maternity homes. The census of residential maternity homes conducted in 1966 revealed that there were 201 maternity homes, but there were only 99 maternity facilities in 1981. NCFA estimates that there are 141 such facilities in 1985. These settings where young women can make confidential decisions are still needed, but are expensive to maintain, and governmental expenditures are rarely used for this kind of care.

It is not the National Committee For Adoption's position that these are all undesireable trends, but view it as a fact that these societal changes have probably reduced the potential number of adoptive children.

E. Seven Ways We Promote the "Adoption Option"

Among the National Committee For Adoption's goals is working to "promote adoption as a positive option for young, single or troubled parents." NCFA attempts to accomplish this in seven ways:

1. NCFA promotes coordination and cooperation among many national groups and local service providers. The National Committee For Adoption was formed by a group of agencies and individuals who felt that they needed an organized, national voice speaking up for adoption. While services to adolescent parents and abortion counseling were being developed, the adoption option has been too often misunderstood and neglected. It is time for the consideration of the adoption option to be discussed and understood by spokespersons for national organizations concerned about adolescent pregnancy. "Pro-life" and "pro-choice" counseling service workers alike need to know as much about the adoption option as possible. For the past five years, NCFA has sponsored a conference on maternity services where focus on the adoption option has been a priority. Adolescent pregnancy counsellors from all kinds of programs have attended and have learned more about how to present the adoption option more positively. This is the kind of communication among agencies which we hope that legislation and programs will encourage.

2. NCFA collects and publishes accurate, current and useful information about the adoption process, laws, and services. Often we have heard pregnancy counselors and social workers state that they just don't know that much about adoption. Too often, young women and their families generally resort to family friends or relatives to fill them in on the adoption process. The media has focused much attention on the possibility of an adult adoptee coming back into his birth mother's life, but has done little to describe the kinds of important decisions which must be made in order to make a successful adoption plan. We believe that teenagers who become pregnant--and their families--must know more facts about adoption. Legal information about putative father's rights, independent adoptions, confidentiality, and relinquishment of parental rights are complex issues which differ State to State. Therefore, we have established a National Adoption Hotline (202)463-7563 to provide information and referral to local information and services resources concerning the adoption option to callers. We publish a variety of inexpensive informational brochures, and sell quality books on adoption from the NCFA Bookstore. And we are proud to add this ADOPTION FACTBOOK to our repertoire. See Appendix E for the full list of publications available from the NCFA Bookstore.

3. NCFA supports better funding for maternity homes. Excellent care for pregnant adolescents carrying their babies to term requires adequate funding. Who should bear the costs of the health, educational, and social needs of a young pregnant woman who carries her baby to term? Adoptive parent fees can cover the costs of the medical care of the baby, as well as the counseling services they receive in the course of becoming approved adoptive paents. Still, evidence has existed since the 1950's that lack of financial resources to

care for the unmarried mother during her pregnancy is one of the major factors which leads mothers into the gray and black markets for adoption. Lawyers, doctors, clergy and other intermediaries have sometimes required adoptive parents to pay excessive fees in order to cover all of the actual costs,--plus additional expenses, commissions, or fees for themselves or the biological mother. Young, pregnant women without other resources will sometimes agree to relinquish their babies in exchange for financial and health assistance--and privacy. This situation of economically and emotionally strapped young girls and high fees paid to liaisons by desperate adoptive parents is not an appropriate way to serve adolescent mothers or their infants. Government sources of funding--as well as private insurance plans and charitable contribution--are needed to support services to unmarried, young pregnant women. For example, the California legislature enacted "The Pregnancy Freedom of Choice Act" which is based upon the premise that since the State pays for abortions and welfare benefits, the State should also pay for maternity home care, social services counseling, and education costs for young women who choose to use a maternity home setting. NCFA supports such an approach.

4. NCFA encourages Federal policy revisions, tax law deductions for adoption expenses, and deductions for parental expenses incurred in providing a daughter with comprehensive services related to her unmarried pregnancy. The Federal Government has mandated that Medicaid be available for first-time pregnant women and the unborn child. Unfortunately, Federal policy falls short in providing funds so that young, pregnant women can receive acceptable health and social care so as to consider the adoption option during pregnancy. With tax simplification and revision being top agenda items in Washington now, NCFA will work to preserve current tax deductions for adoption expenses, and expand them if possible. See Section II. P - Tax Laws Affecting Adoption.

5. NCFA endorses provision of services in a discrete fashion and in a comprehensive setting. If a young woman can be counselled to explore alternatives, build self-esteem, and set goals for her future during her pregnancy, she will be better able to understand the positive aspects of an adoption plan. Likewise, there are still many young women who seek privacy to carry their baby to term. If young women knew that such services were available, more would choose adoption, and fewer would choose abortion. Young, pregnant women have special needs which cannot be translated directly into foster care services--or services to delinquent and troubled girls. The body of practice knowledge developed in the past two decades about serving unmarried pregnant women in comprehensive maternity settings should not be abandoned.

6. NCFA encourages more research on the "Adoption Option". An inadequate factual base is totally destructive to sound practice or policy making. According to a recent study of 10 Catholic Charities agencies across the country, about half of both black and white unmarried pregnant young women wanted to receive adoption counseling. The

last "characteristics" study of the differences between young women who choose adoption and those who choose to parent was in 1973. More current data is needed because the adoption picture has changed. In a recent review of the literature on teenage pregnancy and parenthood, only six out of 177 references related to adoption. Emphasis on *adoption research must be renewed. Private foundations and government* agencies need to support adequate evaluation and research of adoption programs. This will help to rejuvenate the social work practice and professional understanding of the role of adoption services.

7. NCFA encourages the Federal government, as well as national organizations, to work together to support efforts at the State and local level which support education and promotion of the positive option of adoption for young, single or troubled parents. Adoption programs should be viewed not only as "alternative to abortion" programs, but should also be viewed as an important component of any program seeking to provide "alternatives to adolescent parenthood." Agencies do exist which are licensed to do child-placing services and which want to be of assistance to programs which are counseling young women about their unplanned or unwanted pregnancy. Agencies do exist which have developed positive educational programs about the adoption option and would be happy to share their materials and brochures with others. Agencies do exist which provide young women a private, residential setting with comprehensive health, education and social services where they can examine their plans and goals for the future--with or without the baby. The National Committee For Adoption endorses these efforts, and plays a supportive role in Federal, State, and local partnerships together promoting the "Adoption Option".

II. Issues in Adoption

A. What Does It Cost to Adopt?

The answer is not simple, because there are many ways for people to adopt. *For those who adopt through non-profit agencies, such as those that* are members of the National Committee For Adoption (the largest national organization exclusively devoted to adoption and made up only of non-profit agencies), the range in the fees charged couples who adopt ranges from "no charge" to over $10,000. The average fee, in 1985, is at least $6,000. Why do agency fees vary? The explanation is that some agencies, which have been established for many years and which have a large group of supporters who donate to the agency every year, are able because of their financial resources (including endowments) and their fund-raising success to tell couples: "Our costs here at the agency are about $6,000 for every case, but the amount, if any, you choose to donate to the agency is entirely up to you." Other agencies, especially the newer ones springing up in response to the need for more comprehensive and better maternity services, have neither a large endowment nor a group of faithful contributors to rely on. They also receive no government money and no support from United Way or local Community Chest or federated drives. Their only source of support, aside from a modest amount of support from individuals who believe in their work, is the fees from adoptive parents. So, in these instances, a $9,000 fee is necessary or their agencies will soon have to cease operations--or cut back the quality of services offered young women, babies and couples.

The costs involved in adopting today are similar to those people incur when they have children biologically, but the difference is that there is no insurance coverage to help cover the adoption charges. Medical and hospital costs for a normal delivery, prenatal care for the mother and the baby's care in the hospital average $3,000. If, as is frequently the case with very young women, there are complications, the cost can easily be $5,000-$10,000.

There are additional costs that many agencies have for the care and services they provide the pregnant woman. If the woman is in a maternity home, the costs of such care range from $40-$80 per day. At $1,200-$2,400 per month for such care, if a young woman is in a maternity residence for just those months during the time the physical signs of her pregnancy are evident, costs can be $3,600-$7,200.

Furthermore, agencies must provide foster care for infants from the time they are released from the hospital nursery (usually 3-5 days after birth) until placement. In some jurisdictions, because of laws which give biological mothers time to change their minds after they have signed final relinquishment papers, agencies must keep babies in foster homes for a month or more. The average costs of accepting a foster home for a child, accepting the child into foster care, and paying for foster home care for 15 days is $600.

There are also costs involved in the pre-adoption and post-adoption counseling (usually referred to as the "home study") of the prospective adoptive parents. This counseling, usually amounting to 20-40 hours over a period of months, costs from $30-$70 per hour. The minimum cost to the agency, therefore, ranges from $600 up to $2,800. The average cost is about $1,750.

Some agencies also include other costs in their fees, such as the costs of legally arranging the adoption. In today's complicated legal world, where lawyers must make sure that the biological father has been given his rights so that the adoption will not be set aside later, these costs frequently exceed $1,000. An average case probably costs about $1,000 today, when there are no special problems.

Finally, some agencies add to the adoption fees extra charges to reflect their special activities which have made the adoption possible. For instance, one agency has been very effective in using paid advertising to get the message about the adoption option to pregnant women, and spends thousands of dollars a month on billboards, newspaper and television advertising. This agency adds the cost of the advertising to the adoption fee, and can be $1,000.

And, when transportation or other special fees are required, as in many adoptions from other countries, those costs must be added in. For adoptions from Korea, for instance, a transportation and escort fee of $1,600 is typical.

If one adds up the minimum average costs outlined above for a U.S. infant, here is what one finds:

Normal medical and hospital care	$3,000
Maternity home care	4,950
Foster home care for infant	600
Adoptive parents counseling (home study and supervision)	1,750
Attorney fees	1,000
Costs for a normal adoption case	$11,300

Happily, most agencies are able to raise funds to help offset these costs. Through various economies (such as asking pregnant women to help out with some of the costs if they can, or having insurance pay costs when appropriate), some agencies are able to keep the average costs down. And volunteer services and subsidies from sectarian organizations also help with costs.

Fees are not charged or are much less if the adoption is arranged by a public agency, such as the local Social Services or Welfare Department, because tax dollars pay for part of the costs. For instance, Medicaid will pay part of the medical and hospital care in the majority of States. Welfare or foster care payments will pay for part of the young woman's maternity home care or daily living costs. Counseling is provided by social workers who are employed by the department and are paid with tax dollars. Sometimes, even part of the attorney's costs are underwritten by tax dollars. The total costs of adopting could actually be higher when adoption is done through a public agency. However, it is the general public, through its tax dollars, that pays for the adoption and related costs, not the couple who adopts the child. All adoption costs someone. In most adoptions arranged through non-profit agencies, the costs are largely paid by adoptive parents. In those arranged through public agencies, the adoptive parents are the recipients of a benefit paid for by taxpayers at large.

Adoptions which are not arranged by agencies vary greatly in cost. In some instances, where all involved are engaged in the service as a charity, costs can be under $2,000. But many non-agency adoptions today are costing $10,000 or more. In major metropolitan areas, the costs frequently are $15,000. And, according to rumors, the "black market adoptions" in certain independent adoptions involve payments of $25,000 and up--whatever "the market" will bear. See Section I, Risks in Independent Adoption Arrangements. Then follow NCFA's advice and try first to adopt through a public or private agency.

B. Rights of the Biological Father

Formal, legal adoption represents society's effort to balance the rights of all involved parties. Until recently, the one party whose rights were often forgotten, or blatantly ignored, were those of the biological or putative father. In the past decade or so, the Supreme Court has, through a succession of rulings, provided guidelines which all those involved in the practice of adoption must follow in order to ensure the legality and finality of an adoption.

A recent landmark decision (Stanley v. State of Illinois--405 U.S. 645; 1972), required all those involved in adoption practice to take notice of the rights of the biological father. Peter Stanley was the father of two children. He had lived with the mother intermittently for 18 years, though they had never married. Upon the death of the mother, the State of Illinois removed the children from Stanley's care, declared them wards of the State, and placed the children in the custody of a foster family. The Supreme Court ruled that the State could not presuppose that Stanley was an unfit father simply because he had never legitimated the children by virtue of legal marriage, and held that Stanley deserved the same due process protections of fathers who had married the mothers of their children. Stanley's children were returned to his care. The Stanley decision forced adoption agencies, courts, and State legislatures to be cognizant of the rights of biological fathers and to develop practices which ensured that these fathers had sufficient opportunity to assert these rights. It stressed the sanctity of Due Process and the importance of guaranteeing Equal Protection to all.

Caban v. Mohammed (441 U.S. 380; 1979) did the same, but it also highlighted another truth embedded in the Fourteenth Amendment: those who are situated differently may be treated differently. Caban was the father of two children with whom he had lived with from birth to ages two and four, respectively, along with their mother. He and their mother were never married. The couple separated; she maintained custody of the children and married another man named Mohammed. When Mohammed petitioned to adopt the two children, the petition was granted despite Caban's objections. The petition was granted based on a New York statute which required that a mother may block any proposed adoption simply by withholding consent, but a father of a child born out of wedlock may do so only if he can prove that the proposed adoption will not be in the best interests of the child. The Court found both the New York statute and the automatic use of gender classifications in disposing of paternal rights vis-a-vis adoption to be unconstitutional. The Court did allow, however, that parental rights to veto an adoption may be handled with varying degrees of respect based on the degree to which a parent has exercised his or her parental rights. The Caban decision stated that nothing shall preclude a State from withholding the right to veto an adoption from a father who has made no attempt to assert his parental rights.

It is within the framework of the Caban decision that the State of New York created its putative fathers' registry. New York law requires that certain classifications of fathers must be notified of adoption proceedings: any man adjudicated to be the father; any man who was married to the mother six months subsequent to the birth of the child; any man who is living with the mother; any man named as father on the child's birth certificate; any man otherwise identified by the mother as the child's father. Any other man who wishes to make known his intentions to assert parental rights or his wishes to be notified of adoption proceedings must register with the putative fathers' registry. Failure to register may result in the putative father sacrificing his right to notice.

A 1983 Supreme Court decision, Lehr v. Robertson (463 U.S. 248), upheld the current New York laws as constitutionally sufficient. Two other states, Oregon and Utah, have similar methods for fathers to use if they intend to assert parental rights or wish to be notified of adoption proceedings. Other states are now considering similar legislation.

NCFA supports legislation such as New York's putative fathers' registry law (NY Domestic Relations Law #111 and NY Social Services Law #372-C enacted in 1979), which protects the rights of biological fathers yet ensures permanency for the child being adopted.

C. Foreign Adoptions

Intercountry adoption began as a solution to emergency situations, but is now regarded as an adoption alternative in its own right for thousands of American families. After World War II, children from Europe were brought to the United States for adoption, but European adoptions are now very infrequent. Following the Korean War, Americans began to adopt Korean children, a trend which has gathered momentum (see tables 9 and 11 in this FACTBOOK). The Vietnamese babylift of 1975 was a similar response to an emergency situation.

Foreign adoptions have doubled in the last decade. According to testimony by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (Hearing on S-2299, March 16, 1984), the number of "orphan petitions" increased as follows from fiscal years 1973 to 1978, and the data that NCFA purchased and analysed completes the picture for 1979 to 1984: 1973 - 4,323; 1974 - 5,446; 1975 - 6,290; 1976 - 7,051; 1977 - 6,854; 1978 - 5,652; 1979 - 4,864; 1980 - 5,139; 1981 - 4,868; 1982 - 5,749; 1983 - 7,127; 1984 - 8,327.

Thus, the character of intercountry adoption has undergone changes that now result in the placement of over eight thousand foreign-born children each year with American couples and single persons--all from countries where the only emergency is that no adoptive home can be found in the country of origin for a child who needs a family.

In the area of foreign adoptions, support groups assume a particularly significant role. These groups (primarily comprised of parents of adopted foreign-born children) provide many valuable services to new parents of foreign-born children. They share information on countries currently permitting emigration of children for adoption. They provide aid in completing the paperwork for intercountry adoption. And, once the child arrives, they offer support from a community of families who share an interest in preserving the child's cultural heritage while making him or her feel comfortable with a new family in a new country.

For example, an interesting book entitled Oriental Children in American Homes by Frances Koh ($12.00 from the NCFA Bookstore--see Appendix E in this ADOPTION FACTBOOK to order it) offers these eight tips for adopting female Asian infants:

1. Think of your child not as Asian, but as Korean or Thai, for your research will make you realize that each nationality is rich and distinct.

2. You'll want your daughter to keep her last name as her middle name (that's generally her link to her village), and you'll also want to teach her about her country's history and heroes--but don't overemphasize them. After all, you're rearing her as an American, and her big holiday, like yours, will be the Fourth of July.

3. Bigotry you never knew existed may pop up among your relatives, and strangers may make thoughtless comments, talking about your child as if she weren't even yours. Others may embarrass you by acting as if you had done something noble to adopt her, when it's you and your husband who feel blessed.

4. Seek out people from her country and ask them questions about the eating and sleeping patterns of children there so you can help her adapt.

5. Appeal to her senses to make her feel more at home, especially the sense of sound. Greet her with a few words in her language, as well as yours, and play the tonal music of her country, softly.

6. Wear a perfume that includes the flowers of her country and keep a potpourri of native spices in a basket on her bureau. Cooking with these spices will also carry the smells through the house.

7. Serve some of the food from her country at first, cooked in familiar ways. Rice will probably suit her more than potatoes. She may resist milk--with good reason. Oriental children often don't have enough lactase to process milk sugar well.

8. Buy her a Rice Paddy Baby, a sort of Asian Cabbage Patch doll. She won't care that it comes with its own passport, but she will like having a doll that looks like she does.

NCFA doesn't necessarily endorse this entire program, but does acknowledge that the child's cultural heritage must be taken into account in helping the child adjust.

Intercountry adoption requires three simultaneous processes: obtaining a homestudy; securing documents necessary for U.S. Immigration requirements and the requirements of the child's country of origin; and applying to an agency or orphanage--either directly to a foreign-based orphanage or agency, or to a United States-based international adoption agency. Contact your local State department of public welfare or social services to find an agency able to do the required homestudy. These departments are listed in Appendix B of this FACTBOOK. Contact your district office of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service for information on the forms and documents required for intercountry adoption. Further information can be found in III. B. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant.

D. Do's and Dont's for those Interested in Adopting a Foreign Child

DO'S	DON'TS
1. Do your homework first. Buy and read sound books on adopting. Obtain the materials from Immigration and Naturalization Service and the Department of State dealing with foreign adoption.	1. Do not buy expensive books or materials put out by groups which are promoting their own services, including their own consultation services.
2. Thoroughly explore with a counselor or an adoptive parent who had adopted a child from abroad the pros and cons of adopting.	2. Do not rely on rumors or hearsay about how "easy" it is to adopt a child from abroad--investigate carefully.
3. Do try to work through a reputable, licensed adoption agency which is experienced in international adoptions. If you do decide to work through a parents' group or other advocacy organization, be sure to check the group out thoroughly before following their suggestions. Do try to work through an agency despite the fact that the adoption may take longer to arrange. Usually an agency adoption will be handled in compliance with all laws of both the sending country and the U.S. And there will be a resource to assist you and the child once the adoption is finalized.	3. Do not work with anyone--including any groups or lawyers recommended by any organization or individual--who claims to be able to streamline established procedures. Frequently these individuals and groups advise actions which are illegal or unethical. The child may not be legally adopted in the sending country or the U.S., as a result. Disregard any advice, including that in some books on adoption, which suggests any illegal act, such as smuggling a child across a border.
4. Do insist on full information about the agency, orphanage or other place where the child is now living. Be very careful if anyone hesitates to provide this information, with the excuse that "the source of children must remain confidential."	4. Do not work with any agency or individual who will not provide details about the situation where the child now lives and the whereabouts of the child's biological parents. This can indicate a "black-market" situation.
5. Do insist on a full and accurate accounting of all costs related to the adoption. For most adoptions from other countries, the total costs (including home study, fees to the agency or other individuals in the sending country, travel, etc.,) should not exceed $7,000. Be very wary if you are asked to make direct payments to anyone in another country.	5. Do not work with any agency or individual who will not provide, in writing, prior to any agreement to adopt, a full and detailed list of usual charges. Do not pay "finder's fees," as these are frequently found to be bribes. Require detailed written explanation of any lawyer's fee over $2,000.

6. Do work with agencies or individuals who are comfortable with your checking them out with national organizations such as the National Committee For Adoption.	6. Do not work with agencies or individuals who suggest that agencies or national groups such as the National Committee For Adoption should not be contacted for recommendations.
7. Do realize that thousands of children are adopted each year, mostly through agencies without undue problems or excessive delays or cost. International adoption can work quite well.	7. Do not allow any agency or individual to attempt to pressure you, saying that there is only a short time for you to decide whether to work with them or to adopt a particular child. These are familiar tactics of those groups and individuals who prey on prospective adoptors and who count on high-pressure tactics to deliver naive people into their clutches.
8. Do investigate thoroughly at each step of the process. Adoption is a major step for the child and for you. International adoption adds extra complexities and you should not proceed unless you are comfortable with each step in the process.	8. Do not place yourself blindly in the hands of any agency or individual who purports to be able to help you adopt internationally. An informed prospective adoptive parent is a better adoptive parent.

Also, see III. B. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant.

E. Transracial Adoption

The issue of transracial adoption is surrounded by debate. It is a debate which highlights the failure of the child welfare system as a whole to deal adequately with issues of race differences between parents and adoptive children. The National Committee For Adoption believes that transracial adoptions provide a viable alternative to the thousands of black and bi-racial children who wait for permanent homes. Others, including the National Association of Black Social Workers, contend that transracial adoption amounts to "cultural genocide" and is a white, imperialistic attempt to rob the black community of its children. These groups submit that transracial adoption is intrinsically detrimental to the welfare of the child. Severe criticism of agencies and agency workers who place black children transracially may have caused transracial adoptions to decrease sharply over the past decade, but current data are needed to verify this.

The fact remains that of the 269,000 in foster care in 1983, 46 percent are minority children, and 34 percent are black (American Public Welfare Association, Characteristics of Children in Substitute and Adoptive Care, June 1985, Washington, D.C.). This report estimates that 36,000 of the children in foster care are legally free and waiting for adoptive homes; of these, 41 percent are black children. The actual number is probably higher and does not include all the children for whom States have not terminated parental rights simply because black adoptive homes are not readily available.

Regrettably, there is a consistently poor record in finding adoptive homes for these black children. In 1977, adoptive homes were found for only 37 percent of black children free for adoption (National Study of Social Services to Children and Their Families; Westat, Inc., 1978, under contract to Children's Bureau, ACYF, HEW). In 1982, based on a 13 State sample, it was found that adoptions were finalized for only 33.4 percent of adoptable black children in substitute care. In 1983, based on a 13 State sample, adoptions were finalized for only 36.6 percent of adoptable black children in substitute care (Characteristics of Children in Substitute and Adoptive Care, The Voluntary Cooperative Information System, American Public Welfare Association, June 1985).

Careful research has shown that transracial adoption does allow for healthy development of children. Howard Altstein and Rita Simon (Transracial Adoption: A Follow-up Lexington Books, Lexington, MA, 1981) have provided the most exhaustive longitudinal study of children in transracial placements. Their data shows that these children progress well up to and through the adolescent years; they are normal or above normal in self-esteem, racial identity, same race appreciation, and peer relations. Ruth McCroy and Louis Zurcher concluded in their study, Transracial and Inracial Adoptees, (Charles C. Thomas, Springfield, IL, 1983) that, while a transracial adoption produces unique issues for children, it should be considered a placement alternative when inracial adoptive homes are not available.

Opponents of transracial adoption submit that the shortage of black adoptive homes exists simply because of racism inherent in the practices of adoption agencies, and that a sufficient number of potential black homes do exist. These spokespersons also point to the prevalence of informal adoption in the black community. However, it must be remembered that informal adoption

34

does not provide the necessary guarantees to ensure the welfare of the child, and that it is unrealistic to expect informal adoption to affect the plight of children in the foster care/child welfare system. It has become popular to quote a statistic which states that blacks adopt at a rate of 4.5 times the rate of whites (Charles P. Gershenson, "Community Response to Children Free for Adoption" Child Welfare Research Notes #3, Washington, D.C., Children's Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, DHHS, March 1984). What must be remembered is that this refers only to adoptions through public agencies. Over three-fifths of adopting parents are eliminated when this statistic is used. In reality, estimates from the 1982 National Survey of Family Growth are that 2.2 percent of ever-married white women and 1.5 percent of ever-married black women had adopted. (See discussion of Bachrach's NSFG research in Part K: "Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents).

NCFA recognizes that the child welfare system and the black community have not been fully successful in working together to meet the needs of black and biracial children and black prospective adoptive parents. However, the bottom line remains that minority children wait for homes and that research has proven transracial adoption to be a viable alternative to meet the needs of these children. The policy question remains: Do we eliminate this alternative from our practice repertoire while children wait?

NCFA addressed this policy issue, and its Executive Committee approved the following statement on August 4, 1984:

> "In adoption, the best interests of the child should be the first consideration. In looking at the best interests of the child, we believe that considerations related to race or ethnicity should be kept in mind. Usually, placement of the child should be with a family of a similar racial or ethnic background. However, the placement of the child should not be unduly postponed because such a similar family is not available if otherwise qualified prospective adoptive parents of other races or ethnicity are available. In no instance should the permanence of an adoptive home be withheld from a child because a home of the same race or ethnicity is not available.
>
> In those instances of adoption across racial and ethnic lines, adoptive families are encouraged to become familiar with the cultural tradition, history, and values of their child's background. They should foster a firm development of their child's racial/ethnic identity. Placement agencies should become active in sponsoring both pre-adoption and post-adoption education and counseling services for those families which have entered into transracial and transnational adoption.
>
> Adoption across racial or ethnic lines should not be entered into lightly. There are many considerations that must be kept in mind, so that the child has the optimum opportunity to develop a sound sense of identity. However, it has been demonstrated that there have been and are adoptive parents of various races and ethnic backgrounds that have successfully parented children with other backgrounds.
>
> Every effort should be made to build a pool of prospective adoptive parents for children who are likely to need adoptive homes. These

efforts should be made prior to the availability of a specific child, so that children do not have to wait, on an individual basis, while a separate search is made for a suitable adoptive family for them. Various methods, such as informal networks between agencies and adoption exchanges should be utilized to build this pool of qualified couples willing to adopt children.

Since, predictably, there will be healthy infants as well as children with special needs who need adoptive homes and since many of those children will be members of racial groups or ethnic groups which have not been characterized by large pools of waiting adoptive parents, it is critical that agencies, professional groups, and national organizations concerned with these issues work together to build such pools of waiting parents.

We have had more than a decade of activities focused on trying to find homes for waiting children, after the children have been freed for adoption. We now need to move, positively and agressively, to find those homes before the children are freed so that they do not have to remain in limbo one day more than necessary.

Our ultimate goal is placing children as soon as they are legally free for adoption. Waiting six months to place a healthy infant would be deemed unsound. We must come to the point where it is considered unsound for any special needs child, including a child of minority or mixed racial or ethnic background, to wait for six months while a search for a home that is racially or ethnically matching is sought."

F. Facilitating Black Adoptions

Although black children constitute 14 percent of the child population, they are 25 percent of foster care, 33 percent of children free for adoption, and 37 percent of children free for adoption who are awaiting adoptive placement (Child Welfare Research Notes # 3 - March 1984, Washington, D.C., Children's Bureau, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, DHHS).

Unfortunately, recent information about transracial adoption is quite dated. The newsletter Opportunity (December 2, 1974) gave the following report of a national survey of black children adopted in 1973, and we quote verbatim:

"For a long time the number of black children placed for adoption increased every year. This ended in 1972 with a decrease of close to 20 percent. The latest survey shows a continuation of this decline with 23% fewer black children being placed.

	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	Decrease 1972-1973
Total children placed	N.A.	N.A.	44,761	36,099	29,809	17%
Total black children placed	4,336	6,474	7,420	6,065	4,655	23%
Placed with black families	2,889	4,190	4,846	4,467	3,574	20%
Placed with white families	1,447	2,284	2,574	1,569	1,091	30%
Number of reporting agencies	345	427	468	461	434	

To provide comparative data the following table shows the placement activity of the 345 agencies which responded for both 1972 and 1973. These agencies reported a decrease of 18% in the number of black children placed.

	1972	1973	Decrease
Total placed	25,579	21,684	15%
Total black placed	4,305	3,540	18%
Total black placed - black families	3,146	2,720	14%
Total black placed - white families	1,159	821	29%

It is notable that these 345 agencies reported that all placements declined only 15%. This rate of decline was 20% greater for black children than for other children. This is the second consecutive year in which black placements decreased at a rate faster than white placements. Although the total number of children available for adoption has gone down since 1971, Opportunity has uncovered no information suggesting that black children decreased more than white. To the contrary, the responding agencies reported a heavy backlog of black children who had been waiting for adoption for more than thirty days. Whereas black children comprised substantially less than 20% of all children placed, they comprised 40% of the combined backlog. Naturally, this varied widely from agency to agency. Quite a few agencies markedly increased the number of black children they were able to place. Many agencies reported no backlog of black children available for adoption.

INTERRACIAL ADOPTIONS

(Opportunity uses interracial which suggests a "blending" in preference to transracial which connotates a bridge over a chasm.) Comments by the responding agencies clearly show that the 58% decrease in interracial placements in two years did not result from a scarcity of black children or an abundance of black families but from specific changes in the policies and practices of many agencies. The continuing shortage of black adoptive homes is underscored by The Child Welfare League of America which reports that the agencies participating in its study for the last half of 1973 approved only 60 non-white adoptive homes for every 100 non-white children accepted for adoptive planning. Despite the shortage of black homes some agencies do not consider white adoptive applicants under any circumstances. They believe it is better for black children to remain in foster homes or institutions if black adoptive homes are not available. Other agencies have no formal policy but their practices discourage all but a few interracial placements. The majority seems to be in doubt, uncertain as to the best course to follow. A substantial minority evaluates all families for black children on the premise that each child is entitled to a loving permanent home, if one can be found. It is interesting to note that the agencies in 20 states reported placing as many or more black children in 1973 as in 1972 despite the drop in the number of children becoming available for adoption. There were 18 states who actually increased the number of interracial placements reported."

In 1979, the National Urban League (NUL) published "Facilitating Black Adoptions: The Final Report of the Interagency Adoption Project". In the overview, they echoed NCFA's current view of the data situation: "It is virtually impossible to give a full and accurate picture of the trends in black adoption... there are no national statistics reflecting the number of children actually adopted, and these data are frequently incomplete." (p. 7). They attempted to conduct a survey of black adoptions but concluded "the unavailability and non-uniformity of state data on adoption and foster care has had profound implications for effective programming on a national basis... without accurate information about the children in the child welfare system, adequate planning for serving these children becomes impossible... Effective strategies for minority adoptions cannot be assessed nor can new procedures be promoted unless there is expanded support and funding for research on black children in foster care and adoptive placements." (pp.15-16).

All States were contacted in the 1977 NUL survey (based on 1975-76 data years), but only 28 provided useable data. Their sketchy data yielded 12 conclusions, presented here verbatim:

"1. About 60% of all children adopted by non-relatives are born out-of-wedlock.
2. Only about 600 children were placed for adoption across state lines from all states reporting.
3. Half of all children adopted are under 1 year.
4. Very little is known about how old black children tend to be when they are adopted.
5. About 8% of children adopted had some physical or mental handicap.
6. Handicapping conditions of black children adopted are not known.
7. Only 31% of all children adopted are adopted by single persons.
8. Two-thirds of all children in foster care live with families in foster homes.
9. More than ½ of the children have been in foster care over 2 years, but no one knows how long black children as a group have been in care.

10. Only some states know how old their foster care children are. Just about no state has information on the ages of black children.
11. The majority of children in foster care have lived in more than one home. For black children these figures are not known.
12. Only about 10% of the children in foster care are free for adoption."

In September, 1982, the Committee to End Racism in Michigan's Child Care System, Inc., undertook a national survey of color and culture-matching laws, rules, and policies pertaining to adoptive and foster care placements to see how Michigan compared with the rest of the country (National Survey of Color-Matching Policies in Adoption and Foster Care, Committee to End Racism in Michigan's Child Care System, 1984).

After mailing three sets of letter to the various states' Departments of Social Services or the equivalent, they received replies from all 50 States and the District of Columbia by September, 1983.

The column table summarizes the findings of the survey according to relevant statements in the laws, rules, policies and-or letters received from the various states, referred to hereafter as policies.

The table shows the findings separately for adoptive and foster care placements. If no written material was received from a state for adoption, or for foster care, respectively, or if the material received did not specifically mention the factor of matching child with parent by color, ethnicity, or culture, no entry is shown.

Color and culture-matching laws, rules, and policies pertaining to adoptive and foster care placements: 1982 survey by the Committee to End Racism in Michigan's Child Care System, Inc.

Following are the categories indicated by each of the numbers at the top of the columns:

1. State has some kind of requirement for compliance with Title VI of the Federal Civil Rights Act of 1964 or a prohibition of discrimination in services by race, national origin, culture or ethnic heritage.
2. State has a requirement that the cultural and-or racial identity of the child be preserved in the prospective family, the prospective parents are able to accept the children as they are or may become, or the placement is made on the basis of the best interest of the child.
3. State permits a child to be placed in a family of another ethnic group if a matching family is not available.
4. State follows the requirements of the 1978 Federal Indian Child Welfare Act or some modified form of the placement priorities state in the Act.

This numbering system applies to both the adoption and foster care categories.

STATE	ADOPTION				FOSTER CARE			
	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Alabama	X							
Alaska				X		X		X
Arizona			X					
Arkansas								
California						X		
Colorado	X				X			
Connecticut		X						
Delaware								
Florida		X						
Georgia		X						
Hawaii								
Idaho		X						
Illinois		X	X				X	X
Indiana								
Iowa			X				X	
Kansas		X	X	X				
Kentucky	X	X			X	X		
Louisiana								
Maine		X	X	X				
Maryland		X	X			X	X	
Massachusetts	X		X	X	X			X
Michigan			X				X	
Minnesota		X	X	X		X	X	
Mississippi					X			
Missouri			X	X			X	X
Montana		X	X	X		X		X
Nebraska								
Nevada			X					
New Hampshire			X				X	
New Jersey	X	X	X			X	X	
New Mexico								
New York								
North Carolina			X					
North Dakota								
Ohio								
Oklahoma								
Oregon			X	X	X		X	X
Pennsylvania	X				X			
Rhode Island						X		
South Carolina		X	X					
South Dakota			X	X		X		
Tennessee		X	X	X			X	
Texas		X				X		
Utah	X				X			
Vermont	X				X			
Virginia				X				X
Washington			X	X			X	X
Washington, DC								
West Virginia								
Wisconsin			X		X	X		
Wyoming								

Eight states fell into Category 1 for adoption and nine states for foster care. Fifteen states fell into Category 2 for adoption and eleven for foster care. Twelve fell into Category 3 for adoption and eight for foster care. Twenty-one fell into Category 4 for adoption and eleven for foster care.

Fourteen States and the District of Columbia have no policies pertaining to matching in adoptive placements, and 23 have none in foster care.

California and Montana have a prohibition against matching being the basis for undue delay in adoptive placements, or for disruption of stable long-term foster care placements, and California has the same prohibition regarding foster care placements.

Michigan is one of seven states that has a required time factor tied to a search for an adoptive family of the same ethnic group as the child for certain specified groups, usually black children.

Arizona, Michigan, Nevada and Tennessee require a three-month search before an adoptive placement of a child of the specified group(s) may be made with a family of another ethnic group. Illinois and Missouri require a six-month search, and South Carolina has a 12-month maximum on searches within a matching ethnic group.

The range of the various states' rationales for their policies is very wide. On one hand, the position of Arizona is the following:

> "Children being placed for adoption by the Department deserve the opportunity for parents of similar ethnic or racial background."

On the other hand, Kentucky's is quite different. Their policy is the most comprehensive and well thought out of any in the country, in our opinion. It is as follows:

> "All things being equal, it is preferable to place a child in a family of his own racial background. However, no child available for adoption should be deprived of the opportunity to have a permanent family of his own because of his age, religion, race, nationality, residence, or handicaps that do not preclude his living in a family or community. Because of this, racial background in itself should not determine the selection of a family for a child. Transracial adoption is a valid method of providing a child with a home and family that will meet his needs."

The Committee to End Racism recommended that the following topics be discussed with families interested in adopting transracially (these topics should be included in the home narrative):

A. Their motivation for adopting transracially.
B. Changes they are likely to face when a child of a different race joins their family.
C. Reactions of extended family, friends and neighborhoods.
D. Their realization of the fact that they will be an integrated family for several generations.
E. The long-term impact of transracial adoption.

F. The method by which they will help their child preserve his racial heritage.
G. Explorations of their feeling about people of a different race.

It is recommended that families interested in transracial adoption read Mixed Families: Adopting Across Racial Boundaries by Joyce A. Ladner, Ph.D., (A Doubleday Anchor Book), available from the NCFA Bookstore for $3.95 (see order form at the end of this FACTBOOK).

G. Adoption and Foster Care for Special Needs Children

Children who in the past were referred to as "hard to place" or "unadoptable" are today being called "special needs" children. This change in terminology is the result of the realization that these children are "adoptable" and just as deserving of the permanency afforded by adoption as are other children. "Special needs" refers to those children who may be difficult to place due to ethnic background, age, membership in a minority or sibling group, or the presence of physical, emotional or mental handicaps.

The Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-272) marks a Federal attempt to meet the needs of these children for permanence. The States had been attempting to do the same for years but, without Federal matching funds, had found it difficult to do so. PL 96-272 provides these Federal funds, and States are now able to help defray some of the costs of child care for parents who adopt "special needs" children by granting these parents Adoption Assistance payments. Adoption Assistance payments are essentially periodic monetary "gifts" from the State. The amount of these "gifts" is determined on a case by case basis. Specifics of all Adoption Assistance agreements are determined at the State level.

Certain adoptive families are automatically eligible for Adoption Assistance payments. These are families who have adopted a child who falls into one of the following categories: a "special needs" child; a child who had been eligible for Aid to Families of Dependent Children (welfare) while in foster care or in the care of relatives; and a child who is eligible for Supplementary Security Income (aid to the aged, blind or disabled).

All children who are eligible to receive Adoption Assistance payments may automatically receive Medicaid coverage. This is designed to help parents pay for the medical costs often inherent in raising a "special needs" child. Families may receive the Adoption Assistance and Medicaid benefits until the child is 18. In some cases, these benefits may be provided until the child is 21 years of age. Both of these benefits are available in every State. If you are interested in adopting a "special needs" child, contact either a licensed agency in your State of your State's social services department since the specifics of both programs are determined by State policy.

A voluminous statistical report has been prepared to describe characteristics of children in care in New York State in 1980. It is entitled Child Welfare Information Services, Inc., CWIS/CCRS Special Report Series, and is prepared by David Fanshel and John F. Grundy, Research and Demonstration Center, Columbia University School of Social Work, 622 West 113th Street, NY, NY 10025. A series of reports are prepared for agencies, counties, federations, New York City, and New York State. The reports include Series A - Characteristics of Children in Foster Care, Series B - Admissions and Discharges of Children, Series C -Parental Visiting Information, Series D - Status Change Information, Series S - Summary Tables, and Series T - Summary of Characteristics of Children in Care. These reports are based on data for 75,231 children. They contain much statistical information, but no discussion or other insightful analysis. For example, of New York children freed for adoption, 23 percent were Hispanics, 54 percent were black Protestants, 9 percent were black Catholics, 11 percent were white Catholics, 2 percent were Jewish, and 2 percent were white Protestant. Regarding age, 3 percent were under 2 years of age, 12 percent were age 2-5, 19 percent were age 6-9, 29 percent were age 10-13, 28 percent were age 14-17, and 8 percent were age 18. Regarding the reasons these children were freed for adoption, 1 percent were foundlings, 32 percent were voluntarily surrendered, 36 percent were technically abandoned, 27 percent were permanently neglected, 3 percent were orphans, and 2 percent were due to mental incapacitation. NCFA suggests that the authors of these reports be contacted directly for further information.

In a December 1983 report by Penelope L. Maza (Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Child Welfare Research Notes #1, GPO, Washington, D.C.) entitled "Characteristics of Children in Foster Care", the following summary statements were made:

1. An estimate of the number of children in foster care was 274,000 for fiscal year 1982.
2. Approximately 425,000 children were in foster care at least one day during FY 1982.
3. There were approximately equal numbers of males and females in foster care.
4. The mean age of children in foster care was 10.1 in December 1982.
5. The percentage of the foster care population which was minority was 46 percent for fiscal year 1982.
6. About 25 percent of the foster care population is handicapped.
7. The mean duration of placement has declined in the last five and half years, from 47 months in 1977 to 35 months in December, 1982.
8. Over one-third (36%) of the white children but over one-half of the black children (55.6%) were in care for two years or more.
9. About 70 percent of children in foster care reside in foster family homes.
10. Three-fourths of the children entered foster care because of family related reasons and over three-fourths of these were for abuse and neglect.
11. Twenty percent of the children re-enter the foster care system within one year of discharge from foster care.
12. Slightly more than half the children in foster care experience only one placement setting while in continuous substitute care. Over one-fourth (27%) experience three or more placement settings while in continuous substitute care.
13. Return to parents or relatives is the placement goal for 40% of the children in substitute care, while 49% actually do return home.

In "The Twenty Year Trend of Federally Assisted Foster Care" (Child Welfare Research Notes # 8 of July 1984, ACYF, Washington, D.C.), Charles P. Gershenson writes: "In 1935, Congress enacted title IV-A, Aid to Dependent Children, as a component of the Social Security Act. The objective of this title was to provide financial assistance to widows and widowers to avoid the break-up of the family due to economic hardship. The title was subsequently amended to include assistance to the parent and certain specified relatives and the name was changed to Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC). The program has changed considerably in the nearly 50 years of its existence with an accelerated increase from 1967-1976 when the number of children increased from 3.6 to 8.1 million. This upward trend was accompanied by a marked decrease in children who are paternal orphans to a rapid increase in children with living fathers who are absent from the home. An average of 7 million children residing in 3.3 million families received monthly assistance during 1983."

Gershenson further reports that title IV-A was amended in 1961 to include Federal matching payments to the States for AFDC eligible children who might be removed from their home and placed in foster care, i.e., AFDC foster care. These payments were primarily for foster care maintenance costs in foster families and private institutions. Although the use of public institutions was acceptable to meet the requirements that the State provide foster care placement for AFDC eligible children, it was not until the passage of the Adoption Assistance and Child Welfare Act of 1980 which created a new title IV-E, that public institutions with no more than 25 beds were eligible to receive maintenance payments. This new title replaced title IV-A by October 1, 1982.

The AFDC Foster Care program began with 989 children in 1962, reached a high of 114,962 children in 1976, and then gradually declined to 101,594 children by 1983. This rise and fall of AFDC foster care is similar to the rise and fall in the average monthly number of children receiving AFDC: 2.8 million in 1962, 8.1 million in 1976 and 7.1 million in 1983. The total children in foster care increased from 272,000 in 1962 to 502,000 in 1977 and decreased to 243,000 by the end of 1982.

Leaping ahead to NCFA's 1982 adoption survey, reported on in Section III. F in this FACTBOOK, we found that 9,591 adoptions of children by foster parents occurred in 1982. Thus, only a small proportion of children in foster care appear to be receiving the permanance afforded by adoption.

On February 22, 1985, The Committee on Ways and Means of the U.S House of Representatives published "Background Material and Data on Programs Within the Jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means" (GPO, Washington, D.C., 99th Congress, 1st Session, WMCP: 99-2). Table 6 in that report contained 1970-1984 figures and 1985-1990 projections on the average number of AFDC foster care, and associated federal benefit payments. It shows that, for most of the 1975-1985 period, about 100,000 foster care children received AFDC benefits, but that benefits more than tripled from $138,000,000 in 1975 to $455,000,000 in 1985. These benefits were projected to reach $564,000,000 by 1990. NCFA believes that many of these children linger unnecessarily in foster care, and more could be freed for adoption into loving and permanent homes (while simultaneously saving federal tax dollars).

TABLE 6.—AVERAGE NUMBER OF AFDC FOSTER CARE CHILDREN AND FEDERAL BENEFIT PAYMENTS: 1970–90

	Number (in thousands)	Benefits (millions)
1970	NA	NA
1971	73	40
1972	91	85
1973	84	71
1974	90	90
1975	104	138
1976	105	171
1977	101	183
1978	98	213
1979	104	NA
1980	100	NA
1981	106	272
1982	103	334
1983	99	384
1984	101	422
1985 [1]	100	455
1986 [1]	NA	480
1987 [1]	NA	503
1988 [1]	NA	524
1989 [1]	NA	544
1990 [1]	NA	564

NA—Not available.

[1] Projections under current law.

The same Ways and Means report revealed "Adoption Assistance Estimated State Claims" (table 5, reprinted here). A brief inspection of the U.S. totals reveals that the estimated claims are projected to rise dramatically as follows:

1983 - $12,096,455
1984 - $24,243,343
1985 - $32,267,889
1986 - $41,947,702

Adoption assistance is projected to increase, and it is hoped that the funds are actually allocated and that the result will be a decrease in the number of children lingering in foster care, with a corresponding increase in permanent adoptions of children previously in foster care.

Not all children live in the State which provides the financial assistance, as revealed in a 1984 "Report of Children Receiving Adoption Benefits in Out-of-State Situations" (American Public Welfare Association, prepared by the Project to Facilitate the Interstate Provision of Services and Benefits to Special Needs Children Receiving Adoption Assistance, Washington, D.C., June 1984):

"Children reside out of the state originally responsible for their care for various reasons. In seeking families who are willing to care for children with special needs, efforts have been expanded from a local and state basis to a regional and national focus. As a result, many families have adopted children from other states. Also, there has over the last 30 years been a marked increase in the mobility of the American population. In the past, Americans were born, grew-up, married and raised their own families in the same geographic location or neighborhood. Today, families move for job opportunities, improved climate and weather conditions, health benefit, and to be near other *family members who have relocated. According to the U.S Department of Commerce,* Bureau of the Census report, "Geographical Mobility: March 1980 to March 1981," about 17% of the American population moved within the United States between 1980 and 1981. Of that group, 17.6% moved between states. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that the families who adopted childen on an intrastate basis have also relocated at the same rate on average as the general population."

TABLE 5.—ADOPTION ASSISTANCE ESTIMATED STATE CLAIMS

State	Fiscal year 1983		1984	1985	1986
	Amount	Average number of children per month			
Total	$12,096,455	6,230	$24,243,343	$32,267,829	$41,947,702
Alabama	28,056	23	83,705	111,412	144,281
Alaska					
Arizona	267,188	117	343,145	456,726	593,744
Arkansas	81,555	42	133,574	177,786	231,122
California	314,870	94	4,169,128	5,549,109	7,213,842
Colorado	62,568	47	72,625	96,664	125,663
Connecticut	76,225	62	95,787	127,493	165,741
Delaware	419		5,043	6,713	8,727
District of Columbia	16,590	167	160,805	214,032	278,241
Florida	141,337	38	783,727	1,043,141	1,356,084
Georgia	2,973	6	22,506	29,956	38,942
Hawaii	644	6	3,371	4,487	5,833
Idaho	18,256	8	42,033	55,947	72,730
Illinois	218,758	115	664,151	883,958	1,149,180
Indiana	27,713	35	133,005	177,030	230,139
Iowa	48,442	91	117,144	155,919	202,695
Kansas	36,339	55	107,514	143,101	186,031
Kentucky	103,631	82	177,263	235,937	306,718
Louisiana	40,044	24	103,950	138,357	179,864
Maine	17,658	11	97,888	130,289	169,376
Maryland	178,630	154	265,962	353,996	460,194
Massachusetts	331,230		326,934	435,149	565,694
Michigan	2,158,746	1,170	3,095,771	4,120,471	5,356,613
Minnesota	258,768	126	366,325	487,578	633,852
Mississippi	63,575	59	153,664	204,527	265,885
Missouri			78,897	105,012	136,515
Montana			50,665	67,435	87,665
Nebraska	108,374	73	168,531	224,314	291,608
Nevada	8,598	15	11,160	14,854	19,310
New Hampshire	16,363	14	39,577	52,676	68,479
New Jersey	108,859	40	300,317	399,722	519,638
New Mexico	48,591				
New York	6,257,293	852	9,272,185	12,341,278	16,043,661
North Carolina	41,762	90	118,722	158,019	205,425
North Dakota	22,581	13	75,928	101,060	131,378
Ohio		167	334,197	444,816	578,261
Oklahoma	2,018		33,449	44,588	57,964
Oregon	37,185	62	39,164	52,127	67,765
Pennsylvania	156,962	57	353,663	470,726	611,944
Rhode Island		138	223,799	297,876	387,239
South Carolina	3,418		59,061	78,611	102,194
South Dakota	3,649	5	21,884	29,128	37,866
Tennessee	67,416	51	153,430	204,215	265,480
Texas	29,798	50	149,430	198,891	258,559
Utah	4,067		35,869	47,742	62,064
Vermont	17,462	5	26,151	34,807	45,249
Virginia	100,009	66	183,489	244,223	317,490
Washington	201,994	213	382,831	509,548	662,413
West Virginia			21,681	28,857	37,515
Wisconsin	365,841	229	584,191	777,558	1,010,828
Wyoming					

Source: Office of Human Development Services.

H. Special Considerations in American Indian Adoptions

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 governs adoptions involving Indian children, but no accurate National data exists to determine the effect this law has had on Indian children not living with their biological parents. The enactment of the Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was the result of lobbying efforts by various organizations, including Indian tribes. The act was a response to the numbers of Indian children being placed in foster care, which Congress determined to be of problemmatic proportions.

The act gives Indian tribal organizations jurisdiction over all placement decisions concerning children who are members of Indian tribes or who have at least one biological parent who is a tribal member. The act also provides that the Indian tribe may intervene at any time in State proceedings regarding the foster care or adoptive placement of an Indian child. Under this law, preference for the adoptive placement of an Indian child must be with:

1. a member of the child's extended family,
2. other members of the Indian child's tribe or
3. other Indian families.

An effect of this is that a non-Indian family wishing to adopt an Indian child may face major legal obstacles.

Several reasons exist for the data vacuum regarding American Indian children in foster and adoptive care. Indian children are often not counted separately; States often include these children in categories with children of "other" ethnic backgrounds. Furthermore, Indian tribes are not required to provide States with accurate counts of children maintained in substitute care or placed for adoption by their tribal courts. The various levels and types of bureaucracy which affect the placement of Indian children in foster care and adoptive homes has, to date, hindered attempts to develop an accurate national data base regarding these children. Finally, Indian adoption data are poor for all the reasons that other adoption data are poor--lack of Federal effort to collect adoption statistics.

Existing data are scant. In 1981, the total number of adoptions of American Indian children finalized and reported by States was 141. By 1983, this number had risen to 778. (September 12, 1985 personal communication of NCFA staff with Linda Guy, Social Services Branch, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.). NCFA does not know whether this increase is real, or simply represents better reporting in 1983. These counts do not include children placed by tribal courts, for which records are not available. Voluntary Cooperative Information Systems data collected by the American Public Welfare Association show that American Indian or Alaskan native children comprise 2.0 percent of the 269,000 children maintained in State foster care systems in 1983. These numbers do not include Indian children who have been placed in substitute care by Indian tribal courts.

These very limited data lead to the obvious conclusion that we do not know very much about Indian children in substitute care in this country, and what the adoption outcomes for these children are. NCFA strongly believes that this data vacuum needs to be filled so that the effects of the Indian Child Welfare Act can be assessed.

I. Risks in Independent Adoption Arrangements

There have only been three studies which have looked at the "failure rate" of agency adoptions as compared with those arranged independently.

In the first two studies, these is a startling difference between agency adoptions and independent adoptions. The first study (Catherine Amatruda and Joseph Baldwin, "Current Adoption Practices" Journal of Pediatrics, Vol. 38, Feb. 1951, pp. 208-212) found that only 46% of the cases arranged independently were judged successful at the time of placement. By comparison, 75% of agency adoptions were judged successful. In other words, the failure rate was 25% vs. 54%, or roughly twice as high for independent adoptions. The second and more detailed study (H. C. Witmer, E. Herzog, E. A. Weinstein, and M. E. Sullivan, Independent Adoptions, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, 1963) was based on an analysis of homes after placement. This study found that only 46% appeared to offer the child a "favorable" setting. Fully 30% were definitely unfavorable, and 24% lay in-between, with something approaching a balance between favorable and unfavorable.

Agency adoptions, as one would suspect, are not perfect. Perhaps, given the quality of practice of more than 30 years ago, we should not be surprised to see that the rate of unsuccessful placements was so high. What is clear, even in this unflattering light for agencies, is that the independent adoptions are much worse.

The third and most recent study, Adoptions Without Agencies (William Meezan, Sanford Katz, Eva Manoff Russo, Child Welfare League of America, 1978) "finds little difference between adoptions arranged by licensed or approved agencies and those arranged by others, mostly unlicensed individuals." However, NCFA argues that this claim is not supported by evidence in the study, as the following examples demonstrate.

Options--Although most of the pregnant women came to facilitators late in their pregnancy and abortion was generally ruled out, facilitators did not discuss the options of single parenting or marriage with them. "Over one-third of the intermediaties never talked to the biological mothers about alternatives to adoption." (p. 123). This is merely one evidence of very poor counseling given in non-agency placements.

Biological Father's Consent--Although numerous U.S. Supreme Court rulings have held that biological fathers do have due process rights which must be observed, and if not, the adoption can be overturned (including Terrazas v. Riggs, involving an adoption arranged by a priest wherein the child was returned to the biological father at 2½ years of age), only one out of every five of the lawyers in the study said that biological fathers' consent to the adoption or termination of parental rights was required. (p. 129).

Attempts to Screen Adoptive Applicants--Nearly everyone agrees that some sort of sceening should be done to be sure that obviously unfit parents are not allowed to adopt, i.e., those with convictions for child abuse and neglect, etc. The study found that over one-quarter of the intermediaries responded that no attempt was made to screen adoptive applicants. Among those who did screen adoptive applicants, only 15% used the factor of meeting "minimum standards for Court" as a factor in screening. (p. 134).

Counseling for Adoptive Applicants--It is recognized that adoptive applicants need counseling, yet "Fewer than half of the facilitators said they discuss with adoptive parents handling the subject of adoption with the child." (p. 147). If they don't discuss this basic issue, both parents and children may suffer.

NCFA believes that the following nine potential problems are the most serious risks in independent adoptions:

1. Some children are transferred or actually "sold" for high fees. This is the "gray market" and the "black market" that actually exists.
2. Confidentiality may not be protected. Many are arranged in ways so all involved are known to each other.
3. The child's rights to permanency may not be protected. The couple wants a normal child. If the child is not, the child may be left in a legal limbo while the lawyer (or other independent actor) and the biological parents attempt to arrange some other placement.
4. Custody fights between placement time and finalization are possible and frequently take place. In a recent Texas case, the biological mother got the child back from the adoptive parents.
5. The biological mother may change her mind after placement but before her rights have been terminated.
6. A couple who has not been approved by a licensed agency for appropriate reasons may be able to obtain a child through independent adoption.
7. The adoptive parents may not receive full and accurate information about the health issues of the child. Frequently, problems are covered up or not mentioned in the hope that bonding or finalization will take place and the adoptive parents will have no recourse.
8. Frequently, for a variety of reasons, the legal process is never completed. The most common example is where the father's rights are never adequately terminated.
9. Perhaps most important of all, the biological parents (especially the mother) receive little if any adequate counseling regarding the plan that is best for them and for the child. In independent adoptions, it is not in the best interest of the third party, whose fee is being paid by the persons who wish to get a child, to say anything which conflicts with the best interest of the client who is paying the fee.

J. Public Agency, Private Agency, or Individually Arranged Adoptions: Risks and Benefits

NCFA's 1982 survey data suggests that public agencies, private agencies, and private individuals are all active in adoption placements.

For the prospective adoptive family, an initial consideration is: "Where can we find a healthy infant to adopt?" The trend data in table 8 of this ADOPTION FACTBOOK suggests that individually arranged adoptions are more likely now than they have been in the past 15-20 years.

No national survey describes why families who are unable to adopt through either the public agency or the private agency route are ultimately successful in an individually arranged adoption. We believe that there are a number of factors involved. These factors include: the family's willingness to actively do outreach to pregnant women and inform these women of their interest in adoption; the family's willingness to financially underwrite a campaign or contact pregnant women and explain that a prospective adoptive home is available; the willingness of some who arrange individual adoptions to accept the statement of the pregnant woman that the biological father is "unknown"; the willingness of those arranging adoptions without agency involvement to engage in innovative and risky practices; and, in some cases, the willingness to engage in unethical or illegal behavior (such as making cash payments to the biological parents over and above the costs related to the pregnancy). These practices are a matter of concern and need further attention.

Because of the complexity of adoption, and the fact that there is a significant difference between the three approaches, we have attempted to provide in outline form an explanation of the different facets of adoption with each approach. However, we also offer some important cautions about this outline. First, we are providing general information based on our knowledge of the experiences of many individuals and couples. Therefore, our outline is oversimplified and may not accurately reflect the practices of any agency or individual who arranges adoptions. Second, we stress that NCFA's responses are variously based on research studies and our expert "knowledge" of practices we have observed in the several States, but both the research studies and our "knowledge" are subject to challenge. NCFA has special concerns about independent adoptions. The very nature of independent adoptions is such that one practitioner may be highly professional and competent, whereas another may engage in unethical or illegal practices. Most independent adoptions are probably arranged ethically, legally, and professionally, but unregulated, unsupervised, and underground adoptions raise great concern. This concern is reflected in the following outline which summarizes some of the differences between the three methods of adoption. Even if one does not agree with our answers, at least one can say we raised some of the right questions.

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
Is there any history of adoptions not being finalized because of legal problems?	No	No	Yes

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
What percentage of adoptions fall through because of legal or other problems?	Virtually none	Virtually none	Perhaps 20%
Is a major legal problem with this approach a failure to properly terminate the legal rights of the biological father?	No	No	Yes
NCFA's estimate of the usual range of costs for adopting through this source?	$0-$1,000, $500 median	$0-$15,000, $6,000 median	$1,000-$15,000, $10,000 median
Are there definite requirements as to the age of prospective parents?	Yes	Yes	No
Are there definite requirements as to the health of the prospective adoptive parents?	Yes	Yes	No
Is the stability of the adoptive parents' marriage usually checked out?	Yes	Yes	No
Are various methods used to screen for obvious psychological problems in prospective adoptive parents?	Yes	Yes	No
Have there been cases of unethical or illegal payments to biological parents for relinquishing their rights?	No	No	Yes
Are the child's best interests the consistent basis for decisions about which home is chosen?	Yes	Yes	No
Is counseling of all those involved in the process, including both biological parents, provided by a professional who is objective and who sees all parties equally as "clients?"	Yes	Yes	No
Is a home study required before the child is placed in the home?	Yes	Yes	No

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
Is a child born with a defect or abnormality typically placed for adoption by this source?	Yes	Yes	No
Is the biological mother given time to be sure that the adoption decision is best, even if temporary foster care is required?	Yes	Yes	No
Is a full discussion required with the biological mother about her option of being a single parent?	Yes	Yes	No
Is private counseling often made available to the biological parents?	No	Yes	Yes
Is private medical care often made available for the pregnant woman?	No	Yes	Yes
Is housing often provided free of charge to women planning to give up children for adoption?	No	Yes	Yes
Is the biological mother able to have input in the choice of pre-screened adoptive homes?	Yes	Yes	Yes
Can adoptive placement be made prior to irrevocable relinquishment (i.e.,"legal-risk") to avoid foster care for the baby?	No	Yes	Yes
Is detailed information usually obtained from both biological parents and shared with the adoptive family?	Yes	Yes	No
Is the original background information maintained on a permanent basis?	Yes	Yes	No
Can updating of the information usually take place?	Yes	Yes	No
Is counseling available after the adoption is finalized for all of the parties?	Yes	Yes	No

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
Is an experienced social worker the main liaison for all parties?	Yes	Yes	No
Is it usually required for the biological mother to become a welfare recipient to receive services?	Yes	No	No
NCFA's estimate of the percentage of handicapped or special needs children placed by this method?	Over 50%	Under 50%	Almost none
NCFA's estimate of the percentage of healthy infants placed by this method?	About 5%	About 45%	About 50%
What is the usual waiting period for a healthy black infant?	Less than a year	Less than a year	Less than a year
What is the usual waiting period for a healthy Hispanic infant?	Few are available	2-4 years	2-4 years
What is the usual waiting period for a healthy Anglo (white) infant?	Few are available	2-10 years	Three months-two years
Does this approach work when one is seeking to adopt a child from another country?	Rarely	Yes	Yes
Are healthy infants from Korea available through this approach?	Sometimes	Yes	No
Are healthy infants from most other countries available through this approach?	Sometimes	Yes	Yes
Apart from the fee, if any, which is charged to the adoptive family, is the income of the family a factor in the choice of a family?	Rarely	Yes	No
NCFA's estimate of the "failure rate" (i.e., child's adjustment seen as unsatisfactory by family members) of adoptions through this approach?	About 25%	About 25%	About 50%
Can single persons adopt a healthy infant through this approach?	Often	Rarely	Yes

	Public Agency	Private Agency	Independent
Are there special rules which require one parent to remain in the home when adopting through this approach?	Seldom	Sometimes	No
Are there excellent individuals involved in adoptions through this source?	Yes	Yes	Yes

K. Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents

Dr. Christine A. Bachrach, Statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics, published in March 1985 a National Center for Health Statistics Working Paper #22 entitled: "Adoption Plans, Adopted Children, and Adoptive Mothers: United States, 1982". Her report presents data on adoption from the National Survey of Family Growth, Cycle III, conducted in 1982 by NCHS. This survey is the only source of nationally representative data on both unrelated adoptions and adoption plans, and the context in which they occur. The statistics refer to children adopted or placed for adoption by women aged 15-44 in 1982.

The NSFG is designed to provide nationally representative data for women in the childbearing years (ages 15-44) on topics related to family formation, childbearing, family planning and related aspects of maternal and child health. The survey has been conducted 3 times; in 1973 with 9,797 women (Cycle I), in 1976 with 8,611 women (Cycle II), and in 1982 with 7,969 women (Cycle III). In the first two surveys, interviews were conducted with ever married women aged 15-44 and never married women who had children of their own living with them. In the 1982 survey, all women aged 15-44 were eligible for interview regardless of marital status and the presence of children. In all three surveys, a multistage area probability sample representative of all women in the noninstitutional population of the coterminous United States was selected for interview. Statistics in her report are based on weighted data--that is, individual responses have been inflated to estimate national totals. The main strength of the survey as a data source on adoption lies in the wealth of information it provides on the characteristics of women who adopt babies and who place babies for adoption. The main limitation is, that since adoption is a relatively rare event, the NSFG sample contains relatively few respondents who have adopted a child or placed a baby for adoption. For example, of 7,969 women interviewed in 1982, only 94 had adopted one or more related or unrelated children, and only 60 had placed one or more babies for adoption. This extensive discussion of NSFG methodology is presented because Parts K, L, and M of this FACTBOOK discuss Bachrach's NSFG report. Much of Bachrach's text is presented verbatim in order to avoid errors of interpretation.

The 1982 NSFG points to an attenuation of the downward trend in numbers of adoptions observed in National Center for Social Statistics (a Federal agency no longer in existence) data from 1970 to 1975. The percent of ever married women aged 15-44 who had adopted a child was the same - slightly more than 2 percent - in the 1973 NSFG as in the 1982 NSFG, despite the fact that the 1973 survey was conducted shortly after the annual number of adoptions had peaked in 1970. NCFA's 1972-1982 adoption trends by State (table 6) lead to the same general conclusion about the total number of adoptions remaining about the same, but NCFA's data captures the upturn in related adoptions and the downturn in unrelated adoptions, and presents it by State.

Table 3 from Bachrach's NSFG report shows the percent of ever married women who had adopted one or more children by the time of the 1973 and 1982 National Surveys of Family Growth. Step-child adoptions are excluded from the table because they were not included in the earlier survey, but adoptions of other related children are included. (The 1973 NSFG did not ascertain relationship to the adopted child; therefore it is not possible to separate related from unrelated adoptions in the 1973 data.) The percent of adults who had adopted a child was virtually identical in 1973 and 1982--two percent. The 1982 data parallel the findings of the 1973 NSFG data published by Gordon Bonham ("Who Adopts: The Relationship of Adoption and Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Women" Journal of Marriage and the Family 39 (May):295-306). In both 1973 and 1982, the percent who have adopted is primarily a function of age (older women have had longer in which to seek and obtain an adopted child), parity (childless women are more likely to have adopted than mothers), and the ability to bear children (sterile women - excluding those sterilized for contraceptive reasons - are more likely to have adopted than fecund women). In 1982, 3 percent of ever married women aged 35-44, 7 percent of women who had never borne a child (parity 0), and 8 percent of women who were sterile for reasons other than contraception, had adopted a child. Subfecund women also tended to have adopted at higher rates than fecund women in 1982 (5 compared with 1 percent), as they had in 1973, but in 1982 this difference was not statistically significant.

In 1973, the percent who had adopted was significantly higher among women with some college education (13 years of school or more) than for women who had not completed high school (fewer than 12 years). In 1982, this pattern was also evident: 3 percent of ever married women with 13 or more years of school, and 1 percent with fewer than 12 years, had adopted a child. However, because of the smaller sample size in the 1982 survey, this difference was not statistically significant. Similarly, in 1973 women who worked part-time or not at all were more likely to have adopted a child than full-time workers; this was also true in 1982 but the differences were not statistically significant. In 1973, women with family incomes at least twice the poverty level were more likely to have adopted than women with incomes below the poverty level; in 1982 the differences were smaller and nonsignificant. Differences in the percent who had adopted by current marital status and religious affiliation were nonsignificant in both the 1973 and 1982 surveys.

Differences by race in the percent of ever married women who had adopted a child were also nonsignificant in both 1973 and 1982. This finding contrasts with the much lower percent of black than white teenagers who place premarital births for adoption, a pattern which suggests that the pool of black infants available for adoption might be much smaller than that of white infants. The apparent inconsistency may be accounted for by any or all of the following explanations: (1) birth rates to unmarried women were over four times as high for black women as white women in 1982: thus the smaller percent of babies placed for adoption by black women is offset by a relatively larger pool of premarital births; (2) a smaller proportion of adoptions by black women are unrelated infant adoptions (35 percent compared with 76 percent among white women), so black women are less likely to adopt babies relinquished for adoption by their birthmothers, and are more likely to adopt older, related children; and (3) black women are less likely than white women to have ever married, so the pool of black women who are in a position to adopt is smaller.

Table 3. Number of ever-married women 15-44 years of age and percent who had adopted[1] a child, according to selected characteristics: United States, 1973 and 1982

Selected Characteristics	Number of women in thousands		Percent who adopted	
	1973	1982	1973	1982
Total	30,247	34,935	2.2	2.1
Age at interview				
15-24 years	6,593	5,500	0.4	0.4
25-34 years	12,731	15,996	1.8	2.0
25-29 years	6,740	7,778	1.2	0.9
30-34 years	5,992	8,218	2.6	3.0
35-44 years	10,922	13,439	3.6	3.1
Race				
White	26,795	30,419	2.2	2.2
Black	3,109	3,440	1.8	1.5
Marital status				
Currently married	26,646	28,231	2.2	2.1
Widowed, separated, or divorced	3,601	6,704	1.9	2.4
Family income				
Below poverty level	3,302	4,128	1.6	1.8
100%-199% of poverty level	6,249	7,611	0.7	1.9
200% of poverty level and above	20,697	23,196	2.7	2.3
Education				
Less than 12 years	8,602	6,576	1.7	1.3
12 years	14,299	14,844	2.1	2.2
13 years or more	7,347	13,515	2.8	2.5
Fecundity[2]				
Sterile	7,103	13,988	3.3	3.3
Contraceptively sterile	4,814	9,200	2.2	1.1
Noncontraceptively sterile	2,262	4,788	5.6	7.5
Subfecund	4,576	2,475	5.7	5.1
Fecund	18,568	18,472	0.8	0.9
Parity				
No births	5,216	6,246	5.8	6.5
One birth	5,835	7,558	2.8	2.0
Two births	7,992	11,039	1.2	1.2
Three births or more	11,204	10,093	0.8	0.6
Religion				
Protestant	19,726	21,414	2.3	1.8
Roman Catholic	8,559	10,276	2.0	3.0
Other	1,962	3,245	1.6	2.1
Women's Labor Force Status				
Not in labor force	16,963	14,310	2.6	2.3
In labor force	13,284	20,625	1.6	2.1
Working full-time	9,082	14,020	1.1	1.7
Working part-time	3,114	5,467	3.0	2.8

[1] Includes adoption of unrelated children and related children other than stepchildren.

[2] Refers to ability of woman (if formerly married) or couple (if currently married) to conceive and give birth.

L. Birth Mothers Who Place Their Children for Adoption

The survey methodology for Bachrach's NSFG report was discussed in Part K, "Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents". As table 9 from Bachrach's NSFG report shows, 6 percent of all premarital births reported by women 15-44 years of age in 1982 had been placed for adoption. Births to white mothers were much more likely to be placed for adoption (12 percent) than births to black mothers (less than 1 percent). Black unmarried mothers were unlikely to make adoption plans regardless of the timing of the birth or the mother's characteristics. White mothers, on the other hand, were more likely to place their premarital birth for adoption if it occurred before 1973 (20 percent) than if it occurred in 1973-1982 (8 percent), and if their own fathers had some college education (20 percent), than if their fathers had not completed high school (6 percent). These differences were statistically significant at the 10 percent level. Other differences in the percent placed for adoption among white premarital births suggests that adoption plans may be more common among very young mothers (age 15-17) and Protestant mothers, but these differences were not statistically significant.

The very low percentages of black women who place premarital births for adoption does not imply that all unmarried black mothers raise their babies themselves. Of the premarital births reported by black women, 84 percent were living in their mother's household at the time of the survey, 5 percent were living with relatives, 3 percent had died, and 7 percent had other living arrangements (data not shown). The percent of black premarital births living with relatives is slightly higher than that observed for white premarital births (2 percent, not shown), suggesting that informal adoption by relatives may serve some of the same purposes among black women as formal adoption by unknown adoptive families serves among white women.

In table 10 from Bachrach's NSFG report, the percent of premarital births placed for adoption is shown in relation to any discussions the mother had with counselors, her parents, and the baby's father during her pregnancy. Information on discussion with counselors refers to counseling the woman received about options for resolving a premarital pregnancy, e.g., adoption, marriage, abortion and raising the baby herself. This counseling may have been received from a variety of sources, including teachers, health professionals, religious counselors, family planning clinics, pregnancy counseling centers and adoption agencies. Information on discussion with the woman's parents and the baby's father refers to informing the parents or father about the pregnancy. This table is limited to births resulting from first pregnancies to women 15-24 years of age at the interview, since the information was not ascertained for older women and higher order pregnancies. Because of these limitations, several of the cells (indicated by parentheses) are based on very few cases and should be interpreted with added caution.

As in table 9, premarital births to black mothers were rarely placed for adoption, regardless of pregnancy counseling or discussions with parents or the father. Among white women, however, the percent placed for adoption was significantly higher among women who had received pregnancy counseling. There are two possible interpretations of this difference: counseling may increase the chances that a pregnant woman would make an adoption plan, or, pregnant women may seek counseling because they have decided to place their baby for adoption, and need help to carry out that decision.

White never married mothers appear to be less likely to place their baby for adoption if they discussed their pregnancy with the baby's father or with their own parents within the first 3 months of their pregnancy, than if they never discussed the pregnancy with them or did so only after the first trimester. The difference relating to discussion with the baby's father is statistically significant at the 10 percent level only, and that relating to discussion with parents is nonsignificant. To the extent that the observed differences exist in the population, they may reflect the effect of first-trimester abortion, rather than a direct effect of communication with others on the decision to make an adoption plan. Women who discussed their pregnancies with others in the first trimester and did not end them in abortion may have been disproportionately likely to want to keep the baby themselves. Women who waited until later to discuss their pregnancies would have found it more difficult to obtain abortions; for these women, adoption would have been the main alternative to keeping the baby.

Demographic research has shown that women who begin having children before they are married tend to complete fewer years of education, and to have lower family incomes, than women who delay childbearing until after marriage. This is thought to occur in part because the responsibilities of childrearing conflict with maternal education and employment. If this is so, then women who give birth premaritally but place their babies for adoption should not be disadvantaged relative to women who delay childbearing until marriage. Table 12 from Bachrach's NSFG report which shows the characteristics of women who resolved premarital pregnancies through marriage, raising the baby themselves, adoption plans, and pregnancy loss (miscarriage, stillbirth or abortion), suggests that this may be true.

According to the data in table 12, 19 percent of women who married before giving birth, 18 percent of women who placed the baby for adoption, and 17 percent of those whose pregnancies did not end in a live birth, were poor at the time of the survey, compared with 40 percent of women who were unmarried at the time of the birth and then raised the child themselves. Thus, unmarried biological mothers who make adoption plans ultimately advance further, in a socio-economic sense. The proportion who completed high school was about as high for women who made adoption plans (77 percent) as for women marrying before the birth (75 percent) and women whose pregnancies did not end in live birth (81 percent); it was lower (60 percent) for women who gave birth premaritally and raised the baby themselves. In addition, the percent who received some form of public assistance in the 12 months before the survey was more than twice as high among women who gave birth premaritally and raised the baby themselves as among women choosing other alternatives. Similar patterns are observed when race and the year the pregnancy ended are controlled (data not shown). Except in the case of the percent completing high school, the differences between women who made adoption plans and women who gave birth premaritally and then raised the baby themselves were statistically significant at the 5 percent level.

Table 12 also includes information on the later family experiences of women who resolved premarital pregnancies in different ways. Of the women who did not marry before giving birth, 73 percent of women who made adoption plans, compared with 51 percent of women who raised the baby themselves, had subsequently married. About 59 percent of each group had given birth again.

At the time of the survey, virtually all of the women who raised the baby themselves, and 56 percent of the women who made adoption plans, had a biological child under age 18 living with them. Women whose pregnancies ended in loss tended to be less likely than women who made adoption plans to have married, to have had a subsequent birth, or to have children living with them at the time of the survey.

Table 9. Number of premarital births to women 15-44 years of age at interview, and percent placed for adoption, by race and selected characteristics of mother: United States, 1982

Selected characteristics of mother	Number of births in thousands			Percent placed for adoption		
	All races	White	Black	All races	White	Black
All births	8,455	3,886	4,426	6.2	12.2	0.4
Age of mother at birth						
17 or younger	2,326	908	1,373	8.1	17.2	1.0
18-19	2,104	944	1,116	4.6	10.1	0.0
20-44	4,022	2,034	1,935	5.9	10.9	0.2
Year of birth						
Before 1973	3,544	1,472	2,030	8.5	19.5	0.7
1973 or later	4,909	2,414	2,394	4.6	8.0	0.1
Religion						
Protestant	5,554	1,764	3,697	5.5	15.0	0.2
Catholic	2,088	1,741	329	7.9	9.4	0.0
Other or none	812	381	399	6.7	11.8	2.4
Mother's Father's education						
Less than 12 years	4,815	1,938	2,824	2.6	6.3	0.2
12 years	2,312	1,112	1,121	9.9	16.6	1.0
13 years or more	1,328	836	481	12.5	19.5	0.0
Living arrangements at age 14						
Living with both parents	4,769	2,499	2,193	7.6	13.6	0.2
Living with one or neither parent	3,686	1,387	2,233	4.3	9.6	0.5

Table 10. Number of premarital first births resulting from first pregnancies to women 15-24 years of age at interview, and percent placed for adoption, according to race and pregnancy counseling received by mother and discussion with mother's parents and baby's father: United States, 1982

	Number of births in thousands			Percent placed for adoption		
	All races	White	Black	All races	White	Black
All births[1]	1,855	1,020	779	7.2	11.0	0.2
Pregnancy counseling						
Received	867	477	347	13.9	21.4	0.0
Not received	800	383	406	1.5	(2.7)	0.4
Talk with parents about pregnancy						
Within 1st trimester	684	424	259	4.0	(6.5)	0.0
Later or not at all	995	450	492	10.7	18.9	0.3
Talk with baby's father about pregnancy						
Within 1st trimester	1,007	563	426	3.2	5.7	0.0
Later or not at all	669	311	322	15.4	(25.8)	0.5

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[1] Includes births for which pregnancy counseling or talk with parents or baby's father about pregnancy is not ascertained.

( ) indicates percents based on fewer than 50 sample cases.

Table 12. Number of women 15-44 years of age who had a premarital pregnancy, and percent with selected characteristics at the time of interview, according to outcome of first pregnancy: United States, 1982

Characteristics at time of interview	Outcome of first pregnancy				
	All outcomes[1]	Baby kept by married mother	Baby kept by unmarried mother	Adoption plan	Pregnancy loss[2]
Number of women in thousands	13,909	4,072	3,783	392	3,846
Percent below poverty	25.4	18.5	39.8	18.0	16.8
Percent receiving: any type of public assistance[3]	28.8	18.7	51.0	21.3	19.2
AFDC	15.9	7.0	35.8	6.9	8.1
Food stamps	24.7	16.7	43.9	18.3	15.9
Percent completed high school	70.0	75.4	60.4	77.2	80.6
Percent ever married	72.5	100.0	50.5	73.3	57.4
Percent having another birth (after this pregnancy)	60.2	75.1	59.0	59.2	45.6
Percent with one or more biological children at home	77.8	98.3	98.4	56.2	43.0
Mean years since first pregnancy ended	8.9	10.9	7.9	12.0	7.5

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[1] Includes first pregnancies ending in live births that are no longer living or no longer living in mother's household but not placed for adoption.

[2] Includes miscarriage, stillbirth and induced abortion.

[3] Includes AFDC, Food stamps, general assistance or other aid.

M. Characteristics of Adopted Children

The survey methodology for Bachrach's National Survey of Family Growth report is discussed in this FACTBOOK in Part K, "Who Adopts? Profile of Adoptive Parents". An estimated 615,000 ever married women aged 15-44 in 1982 had adopted children unrelated to them. As table 6 from Bachrach's NSFG report shows, these women together adopted a total of 803,000 children: 76 percent had adopted only one child, 19 percent had adopted two children and 5 percent 3 or 4. About 56 percent of unrelated chldren adopted by women 15-44 years of age had been born in the ten years before the survey (1973 or later). In 8 out of every 9 unrelated adoptions, the adoptive mother took responsibility for the child before his or her first birthday. Somewhat more than 1 in every 10 adoptions involved children who were born outside the United States.

In an analysis of data from the 1976 NSFG by Bachrach ("Children in Families: Characteristics of Biological, Step-, and Adopted Children", Journal of Marriage and the Family 45 (February):171-179), adopted children were shown to be better off economically than children living with their birthmothers (biological mothers), and to have better educated, older mothers. They differed most sharply in these respects from children living with birthmothers who had never married. Table 7 replicates Bachrach's 1976 NSFG analysis using data from the 1982 NSFG, with similar results. Only 2 percent of unrelated adopted children were living in families with incomes below the poverty level in 1982, compared with 11 percent of children living with currently married birthmothers, 40 percent of children living with formerly married birthmothers, and 62 percent of children living with never married birthmothers. Adopted children were also more likely to belong to families with incomes at least three times above the poverty level (54 percent) than children living with birthmothers who were never married (8 percent) or formerly married (15 percent). Therefore, the economic advantages of adopted children indicated by the 1976 data are confirmed by the data for 1982.

Adopted children and children living with their birthmothers also differed with respect to the mothers race, marital status, education, age, and labor force participation of the mother. Unrelated adopted children were much more likely to have white mothers (94 percent), than children living with a formerly married birthmother (70 percent), or a never married birthmother (39 percent). Adopted children were also more likely to have a currently married mother than children living with their birthmother (90 compared with 77 percent). The absence of a second parent in the households of children living with unmarried birthmothers undoubtedly contributes in large part to their lower income levels.

Adopted children also have older mothers than children living with birthmothers. The average age of adopted children's mothers was 36, compared to 33 among birthmothers. These differences were particularly marked with respect to children living with never married birthmothers: their mothers were on average only 27 years old.

Adopted children had better educated mothers than children living with birthmothers, again confirming the findings of the earlier survey. Only 2 percent of adopted children had mothers with fewer than 12 years of completed education, compared with 24 percent of all children living with birthmothers, and 50 percent of children living with never married birthmothers. The average number of school years completed was 13.4 among mothers of adopted children, 12.3 among all birthmothers, and 10.7 among never married birthmothers. The very low educational levels among never married birthmothers reflects their young ages as well as the interruption to schooling that often accompanies early childbearing.

In 1976, only 35 percent of adopted children had mothers who were in the labor force, that is, who held or were seeking jobs. By 1982, 51 percent of adopted children had working mothers. At each time period, slightly over half of the working mothers of adopted children were employed full-time. In 1976, adopted children were less likely than children living with birthmothers to have mothers employed full-time outside the home, but in 1982 the differences were much smaller and not statistically significant.

Table 6. Number of children adopted by unrelated women 15-44 years of age and percent distribution by year of birth, age at adoption, and nationality: United States, 1982

Relationship, year of birth, age at adoption, and nationality	Number in thousands[1]	Percent distribution
All children	803	100.0
Year of birth		
Before 1973	353	44.0
1973 or later	449	56.0
Age at adoption[2]		
Less than 1 year	713	88.8
1 year or older	90	11.2
Nationality		
United States	706	88.0
Non-U.S.	96	12.0

[1] Includes children for whom birth year, age of adoption and nationality are not ascertained. Unknown cases distributed in proportion to known cases.

[2] Refers to the child's age when the adoptive mother took responsibility for him or her, rather than when the adoption was finalized.

Table 7. Number of children under age 18 living with adoptive or biological mothers 15-44 years of age, and percent distribution by age and selected characteristics of mother, according to relationship to and marital status of mother: United States, 1982

Selected characteristics	Adoptive mother[1]	Birthmother			
		Total	Never married	Currently married	Previously married
		Number of children in thousands			
All children	722	55,649	3,689	43,078	8,882
		Percent distribution			
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Age					
Under 6 years	44.8	37.7	59.2	38.4	25.5
6-11 years	23.2	33.4	27.5	33.2	36.8
12-17 years	31.9	28.9	13.4	28.4	37.7
Race of mother					
White	94.0	82.0	38.9	88.0	70.4
Black	4.0	14.9	59.2	8.7	26.4
Marital status of mother					
Currently married	89.7	77.4	-	100.0	-
Not currently married	10.3	22.6	100.0	-	100.0
Labor-force participation of mother					
In labor force	50.8	49.9	35.2	48.3	63.5
Working full-time	27.7	31.7	24.1	29.5	45.8
Not in labor force	49.9	50.1	64.8	51.7	36.4
Mother's education					
Less than 12 years	1.7	23.9	50.4	19.9	31.9
12 years	56.7	41.7	35.3	42.6	40.1
13 years or more	41.5	34.4	14.3	37.5	28.0
Mean years of school	13.4	12.3	10.7	12.5	11.7
Mother's age					
15-24	0.0	10.9	42.8	8.7	8.3
25-34	41.9	49.5	49.3	49.3	50.1
35-44	58.1	39.6	7.8	41.9	41.7
Mean age of mother	36.0	32.5	26.5	32.9	33.0
Family income					
Below poverty level	2.3	18.8	61.9	10.8	39.8
100-199% of poverty level	19.9	25.2	20.5	24.1	32.4
200-299% of poverty level	24.0	18.8	9.7	20.8	12.8
300% of poverty level or more	53.8	37.2	7.9	44.3	15.0

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[1] Includes unrelated adoptions only.

N. Adopted Children and Biological Parents Who Seek Each Other

This issue concerns the emotional/medical needs for biological parents to find the children they relinquished for adoption, and/or the need for adult adoptive children to find their biological parents. It also concerns the confidentiality of adoption records, which are dealt with in Part III in "Model Law on Adoption Registries", "Survey on State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records", and "Summary of State Adoption Regulations Based on National Committee For Adoption Survey".

Closed records hinder the biological mother's search for her relinquished child, or the child's search for the mother. However, there are some good reasons for closed records including: allowing adoptive families the uninterrupted opportunity to bond themselves to their adopted child; preserving the birth parents' privacy; protecting the adopted child from potentially disturbing facts surrounding his birth; buttressing the child's feeling of permanency; and enhancing the adoptive family's stability.

Open records facilitate adopted children and biological parents finding each other, and those who support open records give these reasons: adoptees have a right to find out their birth names and family histories to fill the void that separates them from their past; adoptees may be at risk of medical problems or life-threatening diseases, and need family medical histories; adoptees may wish to have children, and are not sure of their genetic and medical backgrounds. Two States (Alabama and Kansas) have open records, which means that adoptees are permitted to receive their original birth certificates containing the names of their biological parents. All States have laws by which critically needed medical information may be obtained through the courts.

There are several organizations which favor open records and help adoptees and biological parents find each other. One organization is Adoptees' Liberty Movement Association founded by Florence Anna Fisher in New York. Another is Concerned United Birthparents founded by Lee Campbell, and is composed of biological parents. The Triadoption Library, one of the more active search groups, maintains a listing of all the search groups--there are some 400 in the U.S. and other countries. Contact Mary Jo Rillera at Triadoption Library, Inc., P.O. Box 638, Westminster, CA 92684 for further information. Her "Organization Statistical Study" revealed that four times as many women as men were searching, and that 37 percent of searchers were in the 26-35 year age bracket. These and other search groups are listed in Appendix B. 18. Search Groups.

In general, NCFA opposes open adoption records because confidentiality can be the deciding factor in a woman's abortion or adoption decision. Regardless of people's religious or ethical convictions about abortion, if the only choice given women is between a confidential abortion or a non-confidential adoption, women will be too often compelled to choose confidential abortion. Closed records gives pregnant women greater freedom to choose adoption.

This desire for privacy is very real. In interviews reported by Ann Murphy (New York Times, July 31, 1978) with 212 biological mothers who had given up a child for adoption, more than ninety percent "dreaded the thought of a confrontation with their past". In a recent court action which stresses a birthmother's right to privacy, an Oregon court has found that a physician who helped an adult adoptee learn the identitiy of her birth mother is liable for the emotional distress caused to the birth mother and is guilty of breaching a professional confidence. In 1959, the physician delivered a female baby; the mother consented to adoption, placement was completed, and records were sealed as confidential. In 1980, the adoptee returned to the physician, who helped her learn the birth mother's indentity. The birth mother maintained that as a result, she suffered severe emotional distress and brought action against the estate of the physician, who had since passed away. The court sided with the birth mother, maintaining that breaching the confidence of the birth parent is an actionable offense (Humphers v. First Interstate Bank, 696 P.2d 527, 1985).

Therefore, NCFA favors the registry concept, in which adoptive children and biological parents (and sometimes, adoptive parents) independently register the fact that they want to have a meeting. If all parties agree, a meeting is arranged through a State social service agency. If either side refuses, the records remain confidential. Sixteen States (California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Oregon, Idaho, Ohio, South Carolina, Arkansas, South Dakota, and Texas) have passed laws setting up mutual consent adoption registries.

A number of other States (Connecticut, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Wisconsin) have enacted statutes known as "search and consent procedure laws". These laws allow adoptees access to records but permit no information to be exchanged without the consent of the biological parents. For example, under terms of the 1980 Nebraska law, the adoptee must be at least 25 years old and also have the consent of his/her adoptive parents.

It is a fact that only about one percent of adoptees search for their biological parents. Scotland has open records, but less than one percent of adopted people in Scotland over 17 years of age who searched obtained identifying information in the years 1961-1970. In England and Wales, 1-2 percent of all adoptees searched after the much-publicized change which opened adoption records. In Minnesota, only 1,150 persons entered their names on the new, much-publicized registry, of over 60,000 adoptees in the State (but information is not available as to whether their search was successful). The Edna Gladney Home of Fort Worth, Texas, reports that "out of 14,000 adoptions, less than one percent have initiated any attempt to locate or identify their birth parents" (NCFA, The Adoption Sourcebook, 1982).

There is evidence that the one percent who are "searchers" are different than "non-searching" adult adoptees. A 1981 M.S.S.W. Thesis by S.A.A. Aumend at the University of Texas at Austin entitled "Self-Concept, Attitudes Toward Adoptive Parents, and Revelation of Adoption in Searching and Non-Searching Adult Adoptees" showed that 49 non-searchers (when compared with 71 searchers):

- had more positive self-concepts, higher self-esteem, and more self-satisfaction
- had more positive attitudes toward their adoptive mothers
- had more positive feelings about adoption as they were growing up and in the effect of adoption on feelings about themselves as adults
- were less concerned about the lack of background information.

Similarly, John Triseliotis (In Search of Origins: The Experience of Adopted People, Routledge and Kegan Paul, Ltd., London, 1973) interviewed 70 adult adoptees who used the already-opened records in Scotland, compared them with adoptees who did not search, and states:

> "Adoptees who have a positive self-image, who have experienced a happy home life and to whom information about their parentage and the circumstances of their adoption has been made available by the adoptive parents, and who have not experienced a recent intense crisis, are less likely to feel the need to seek reunions" (p. 229).

NCFA cannot settle this important issue with a few choice facts, but can only point to the conflict of interests between one person's interest in information and another's interest in privacy, and encourage great sensitivity in balancing these two needs.

O. Business Firms and Adoption Benefits

Since its founding in 1980, the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) has engaged in a number of activities as part of its goal of encouraging adoption benefits. We have encouraged corporations not only to establish and broaden benefit programs for adoptive parents and children who have been adopted, but have also advocated changes in the tax code to increase the net effect of these benefits. (See Part P "Tax Laws Affecting Adoptions"). NCFA has helped to draft and monitor legislation and has testified on behalf of adoption benefits. We have also gathered data on adoption benefits and disseminated information to corporations, the media, and the general public. NCFA applauds the following companies that provide adoption benefits: Abbott Laboratories, ACACIA, American Can, Bankers' Life, Baxter Travenol Laboratories, Inc., C. L. Bete Co., Control Data Corp., Desert Mutual Benefit Association, Digital Equipment, Eli Lilly and Company, Emery Worldwide Corp., Emett and Chandler Illinois, Inc., Felt Products Manufacturing Company, Foote, Cone and Belding Communications, Inc., G.D. Searle & Co., Hallmark Cards Incorporated, Hewitt Associates, Hewlett-Packard, Honeywell, Humana, Intermetrics, International Business Machines Corp., International Minerals and Chemical Corp., Lincoln National Life, Marion Laboratories, Mennonite Mutual Aid Association, Motorola, Inc., Omnistaff, Inc., Owens-Corning Fiberglass, Pfizer, Phelps Dodge, Procter & Gamble, S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc., Smith Kline Corporation, Smith Kline & French Laboratories, Syntex Corporation, Temple, Barker & Sloane, TIME, USF&G, Victor F. Weaver, Inc., Xerox Corporation. Certainly there are others, and if they will contact NCFA, we will update our list.

Companies provide adoption benefits for several reasons:

1. As an equity consideration since adoptive parents are not covered by pregnancy benefits yet incur considerable expense;
2. As an effort to present a positive image to employees as sensitive to the different ways that families are built; and
3. As a public relations item to generate goodwill and good publicity about the company which will far exceed the costs of the benefit since adoptions are proportionately less frequent.

In the last five years, NCFA has noted a trend among corporations to establish or expand adoption benefits. This trend is evident from the growing number of large companies which make cash payments to adoptive parents to help offset health costs and other charges they must pay directly or in the form of adoption fees. It is also evident in the growing percentage of companies providing valuable benefits in the form of adoption leave. Since Federal and State governments are large employers, NCFA encourages them to review their adoption benefit plans and improve them as necessary.

A 1983 survey of 253 companies found that although there was a significant gap between leave benefits for women having children biologically (90 percent allowed maternity leave, but only 25 percent allowed leave for adoption), the gap had narrowed between "paternity leave" and adoption leave. Unpaid paternity leave was provided by 39 percent of the firms; unpaid adoption leave was provided by 19 percent of the firms. With respect to paid leave, company policies generally allowed personal leave (accumulated annual leave or sick leave) to be used. About 6 percent of the firms provided paid leave to women who adopted a child.

In some industries, adoption leave is more common. A 1984 compilation of leave policies for airline flight attendants shows, for instance, that adoption leave is more prevalent than paternity leave. Eight of eleven major airlines provide adoption leave, but only five of the majors have paternity leave. Ten of twelve national airlines have adoption leave, but only three of the nationals have paternity leave. There may be an explanation for the popularity of this benefit in this segment of the airline industry. For several years, flight attendants have been playing a key role in international adoptions by serving as volunteer escorts. Thus, the interest of flight attendants may have been extended when they negotiated contracts with the airline industry.

In addition to trends developing in collective bargaining agreements, court and legislative changes are taking place to encourage adoption leave. The recent Pennsylvania arbitrator's ruling and the new Maryland law giving all state employees who adopt the right to use accumulated sick leave for child care purposes are cases in point.

NCFA has developed a draft letter to be used by an employee in writing the employer about adoption benefits. We hope that it "opens the door" for a dialogue and constructive action. The letter, to be tailored by employees to their own and to company circumstances, is as follows:

"Dear Employer:

As you know, I have been with the company now for _______ years and I have appreciated the benefits which you have provided--including the coverage for illness and our leave benefits.

Our family is extremely excited about a new development in our lives--we are about to adopt a child. This new change in our lives--(this is our first child) (this is our _______ child)--means that we will be facing some expenses and some needs for time with our child. I am writing to you because I hope you can help us out.

For the last several years, there has been a growing trend among employers to provide adoption benefits for employees. Many companies now provide such benefits. I am enclosing a list of some of these companies for your information. You will note that some of the leading corporations in the U.S. are listed.

These companies are providing two kinds of benefits. First, they are providing flat payments--up to $2,000--to help employees who adopt children with the adoption fees they must pay. As you know, when we adopt, we pay fees to the adoption agency. Part of those fees--often $3,000 or more--is for the hospital and doctor costs connected with our child's birth. If we were having the child ourselves, our company benefits would reimburse most of those costs. But since we are forming our family through adoption, we must pay those costs through the adoption agency. Many companies have seen fit to pay part of those costs--in a sense because they understand how it is comparable to regular benefits given most employees. We would like to have you do this in our case. We would also like to suggest that you set up a permanent plan for all the employees who may adopt in the future. The plan can simply state that "(Name of company) hereby establishes its adoption benefits plan, whereby $_______ will be paid to any company employee who adopts a minor child, said payment to be made at the time the adoption is finalized by the court."

The second kind of benefit companies are providing is paid leave for the parent who is adopting, much as our company pays (or provides) leave for parents who are having children biologically. Those of us who are having children through adoption need time--frequently more so than those who have already had a chance to bond with their child in the prenatal phase--and we need that time early in our child's life so that we can bond as a family. We also need that time, as other parents do, to adjust to the new family member and to arrange the schedules, day care, etc., that goes with a new child. We would like you to provide similar kinds of leave for adoptive parents.

I would like to discuss this plan with you or with our employee benefits manager. If we need more information, we can obtain it from national organizations which promote adoption benefits as a sound, socially beneficial activity of employers.

Sincerely,

Your Employee"

Companies can be encouraged to offer adoption plans, particularly with the right tax legislation in place. Who benefits? We all do. The companies can offer a meaningful tax effective benefit and generate employee good will. Employees can receive a non-taxable benefit that would help reduce the cost of adoption. The timeframe for adoptions could be accelerated so that children can find their way into a family faster. Society benefits from children being placed in the family.

If companies could see that a meaningful tax effective benefit could be provided to employees, more companies would give stronger consideration to offering adoption benefit plans.

NCFA distributes a variety of free materials related to adoption benefit plans. Also, people can write to the National Adoption Exchange, 1218 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 for a particularly useful 12 page booklet entitled: "Adoption Benefits Plans: Corporate Response to a Changing Society".

An adoption benefits plan is a company-sponsored program that financially assists or reimburses employees for expenses related to the adoption of a child and/or provides for paid or unpaid leave for the adoptive parent employee. Financial assistance may be a set allowance regardless of actual expenses or may be reimbursement for specific costs. Adoption leave may be paid or unpaid and permits the adoptive parent time to help the child adjust after placement.

Coverage varies widely, with benefit amounts ranging up to approximately $2,000 per adoption. Three approaches are common: (1) Reimbursement for specific expenses, (2) Specific set allowance regardless of expense, and

(3) Reimbursement or coverage through the company's medical plan for medical expenses only. You, as a consumer, can further the cause of adoption by discussing an adoption benefits plan with your company representatives.

P. Tax Laws Affecting Adoptions

According to the Internal Revenue Service's Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax (for use in preparing 1984 federal tax returns), there are certain adoption expenses that you may claim on Schedule A, Form 1040, as follows:

> "Adoption expenses. You may be able to deduct up to $1,500 of qualified adoption expenses if you legally adopt a child with special needs for whom you are receiving payments under the Social Security adoption assistance program.
>
> A child with special needs is one who the state determines is described in the Social Security Act adoption assistance program. This is a child who the state determines cannot or should not be returned to his or her parental home, who has a specific factor, or condition that makes the child difficult to place, and who has been the subject of an unsuccessful placement effort.
>
> Qualified adoption expenses include reasonable and necessary adoption fees, court costs, attorney fees, and other expenses that are directly related to the adoption of the child. These adoption expenses do not include any expenses for which you may receive a credit or that you may otherwise deduct. For example, pre-adoption medical expenses are claimed as a medical expense, not as an adoption expense. In addition, you may not deduct any expenses for which you received payments from a federal, state, or local program to pay for your adoption expenses." (page 144, Pub. 17).

Unfortunately, the 1984 tax deduction is limited to special needs adoption. "Special needs" in this law is defined to mean any child who is or would be eligible for Aid to Families with Dependent Children or Supplemental Security Income and who is older, minority, a member of a sibling group, or has a physical or mental handicap. The adoption expenses must not violate State law (for instance, if expenses were incurred for a nonagency, or independent adoption, in States which bar such arrangements) and no deduction is permitted for expenses which are paid by any government program or are deductible or creditable under another Code section. NCFA hopes that this deduction is not eliminated by the current tax revision and simplification plans, but rather, is expanded and broadened.

NCFA supports legislation such as S-2330, the "Fairness For Adopting Families Act", which was introduced, but had not yet passed as of October 1985. This act is summarized as follows:

> "Summary of Fairness For Adopting Families Act of 1984
> 1. Provides tax deduction for adoption expenses. Allowance of a deduction costs of an adoption, in accordance with State and Federal Law, including infant, special needs or foreign child adoptions. It excludes surrogate mother and invitro arrangements. It also restricts the deduction of travel outside the United States unless such travel is required as a condition of the adoption, or to assess the health and status of the child, or to escort the child to be adopted to the United States. There is no dollar limitation on the amount of the deduction.

2. Excludes from employee's income adoption expenses paid by an employer.
3. Treats employer contribution to adoption expense plan as an ordinary and necessary business expense.
4. Effective date applies to expenses incurred or paid for adoption which become final after December 31, 1983."

A similar bill was introduced in the House. HR-2793 provides the same benefits as does S-3230, except that the deduction for adoption expenses would be limited to $5,000 ($7,000 for an international adoption); the allowable deduction would be reduced for families with taxable incomes above $60,000.

NCFA will keep its members informed of the progress of these and similar bills through its newsletters and press releases.

There is bipartisan support in Congress for this deduction, for good reasons. When a baby is born, there are a number of predictable medical costs which are deductible from one's federal income taxes. But not if the baby is adopted. This is obviously unfair discrimination against couples who form their families through adoption. Furthermore, encouraging this deduction saves taxpayers money in at least two ways. How? First, by moving thousands of children, who might otherwise have lingered in inappropriate foster care or institutions, into loving homes. Those foster care and institutional costs, paid from federal and state tax coffers, are much larger than the modest tax benefits which might be given for adoption. Second, the tax deduction would encourage shifting medical costs to the adoptive family, away from the more expensive AFDC and Medicaid systems. Currently, many agencies routinely put women on AFDC and use Medicaid to compensate for some of the costs.

Certain States permit tax deductions for adoption expenses, including California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, South Carolina, and Wisconsin. Check with your State tax department for details.

III. Adoption Regulations

A. Summary of State Adoption Regulations Based on National Committee For Adoption Survey

In 1984, NCFA contacted health, welfare, and statistical experts in all States for information on their adoption regulations. The survey materials used are shown in Appendix D, Part 5, "Questionnaires and Cover Letters Used for National Committee For Adoption Survey." The information which States gave to NCFA has been updated as new information has become available, and is current as of the date of publication of this ADOPTION FACTBOOK. For future updates on new regulations, contact NCFA or contact the appropriate person listed in "State Employed Adoption Specialists", Appendix B, Part 1.

1985 State Adoption Facts and Regulations

State	1. Is independent adoption legal?	2a. In an independent adoption is a home study required before placement?	b. Before final-ization?	c. Not at all?	3. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?	4. Can prospective adoptive parents from another state apply for adoption in your state?
Alabama.................	Unlawful to hold out inducements to birth parent	No	Yes		Yes	No
Alaska..................	Yes--if two or less a year	No	Yes, but judge has option of waiving home study		Yes	No
Arizona.................	Yes	No	Yes	Before petition to adopt is filed	Yes	No
Arkansas................	Yes	No, unless court ordered			Yes	Yes, for special needs children
California..............	Yes	No	Yes		No	For Special Needs
Colorado................	Birth parent may place. Voluntary relinquishments not legal	No	Only if ordered		Yes	No residence requirement
Connecticut.............	No	N/A	N/A		No. Was legal prior to 1984	Yes. Almost exclusively Special Needs
Delaware................	No	N/A	N/A		No	Yes
District of Columbia....	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes--primarily Maryland and Virginia
Florida.................	Yes	Yes. Preliminary study before placement; study & supervision after			No	Yes

5. Does your state permit access to adoption records without a court order?	6. Are sealed records available to adoptees at age 18? 21? Ever?	7. How soon after birth can the birthmother sign relinquishment papers?	8. What is the length of time given a birthmother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?	9. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?
See question #6	At age 19 adoptee may learn circumstances of placement	Relinquishment not permissible under state law	14 days after court termination	6 months after Interlocutory Order
No	Adoptee may get copy of birth certificate at age 18	Anytime--not effective for 10 days	Irrevocable	30 days
Only for non-identifying information	Same as at left	72 hours	Relinquishment is irrevocable	6 months
No	No except with court order (has registry)	24 hours	10 days	6 months
No	By court order (has mutual consent registry)	After release from hospital; or with statement from Dr. that mother is competent, if hospitalized over 4 days	Anytime prior to relinquishment filed with State Dept. of Social Services	Varies. Relinquishment petition is filed when adoption is ready to be finalized. Independent, 180 days
No. Placing agencies will give non-identifying information	No (has mutual consent registry)	Statute does not specify time. Final adoption decree granted at time of court hearing	No time specified in statute	Usually 6 months infants; 1 year older children
No. (Adoption records prior to 1943 not sealed) Adult adoptees and adoptive parents given non-identifying information	Yes, at age 18, with a court order, or with consent of birth parents	48 hours	Appeal period is 30 days after court termination of parental rights. Voluntary relinquishments not legal	Court hearing usually 15-30 days after filing petition. Final adoption decree granted at time of court hearing
No	Only with a court order	No time frame	30-day appeal period after TPR signed	90 days
No	No	72 hours	10 days	At least 6 months
Yes. Non-identifying	On court order (has mutual consent registry)	Any time	None. Consent is final. May bring court challenge up to 1 year after judgement entered	90 days after placement

1985 State Adoption Facts and Regulations

State	1. Is independent adoption legal?	2a. In an independent adoption is a home study required before placement?	b. Before finalization?	c. Not at all?	3. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?	4. Can prospective adoptive parents from another state apply for adoption in your state?
Georgia..................	No. Birth parent has revocation privilege	Only for an out-of-state placement	Yes for all placements		No	No
Hawaii...................	Yes	No		At discretion of court	No	Generally not
Idaho....................	Yes	No	Yes		No	No
Illinois.................	Yes		Yes		Yes	No
Indiana..................	Yes. Attorneys or licensed group	No	No. Law requires a court report		Yes	Yes
Iowa.....................	Yes	Yes			Yes	No
Kansas...................	Yes	By court order	Yes		Yes	No to state. Yes to other agencies
Kentucky.................	Yes	Yes			Law does not prevent	No except for Special Needs children
Louisiana................	Yes	No except for interstate adoptions	Yes		No	Yes if have an approved home study from home state
Maine....................	Yes, but not through individuals who hold themselves to be child placing agents	No	Yes		The law makes no distinction	Not for home study but with approved study can apply for Special Needs child
Maryland.................	Yes	Before finalization			Not specifically prohibited. No such agencies in Maryland	Not for a home study. May apply if home study done & approved
Massachusetts............	No	Adoption services must go through a licensed agency			Yes. So far as know, there are none	No

5. Does your state permit access to adoption records without a court order?	6. Are sealed records available to adoptees at age 18? 21? Ever?	7. How soon after birth can the birthmother sign relinquishment papers?	8. What is the length of time given a birthmother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?	9. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?
No	No	No specified time. Relinquishment has to be subsequent to child's birth	10 days	60 days minimum
No	Court order	No time restriction in state statute	Up to time of placement	Date fixed by court (approximately 6 months)
No	With court order (has registry)	Law does not specify	30 days	30 days
No	At age 21 through registry	72 hours	Irrevocable	6 months average
No	Only with court order	State policy recommends 48 hours	Until adoption is finalized	At discretion of court
No	No	72 hours	96 hours	2 weeks
Yes	Birth parents identity not shared without permission	72 hours	Cannot revoke if signed before judge	30-60 days
No	No	5 days	None	90 days usually
No	No (has mutual consent registry)	6th day for independent adoptions; no requirement for agency	Irrevocable through licensed agency; 30 days independent adoption	Within 30 days
No	Only with court order (has mutual consent registry)	Immediately, but must be done in probate court	She cannot revoke her consent	Varies 1 week to several months
No	Only with court order	No time limit. Final decree cannot be issued until child is 15 days old	Until final decree in independent; or guardianship decree in agency adoption	2 to 6 months
No	No	4 days	Birthmother would have to show that papers were illegal	Varies

1985 State Adoption Facts and Regulations

State	1. Is independent adoption legal?	2a. In an independent adoption is a home study required before placement?	b. Before final- ization?	c. Not at all?	3. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?	4. Can prospective adoptive parents from another state apply for adoption in your state?
Michigan	No	Not legal			N/R	Yes
Minnesota	No	No	Yes		Yes	Yes (Referred back to agency in own state for application study)
Mississippi	Yes	Only if judge requests it			Yes	No
Missouri	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	No
Montana	No (placement by parent legal)	Yes			No	No
Nebraska	No, except by birthmother		Yes		Yes	No
Nevada	Yes	Yes			Yes	Not for normal healthy children
New Hampshire	Yes	A study has to be requested	Yes		No	No
New Jersey	No, except by birthmother	No	Yes		No	Yes--Special Needs only
New Mexico	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes, with licensed agencies
New York	Yes	No	Yes		No	Yes
North Carolina	Only if placement is made by birth parent with adoptive parent	No unless child is under 6 months	Yes		N/R	No

5. Does your state permit access to adoption records without a court order?	6. Are sealed records available to adoptees at age 18? 21? Ever?	7. How soon after birth can the birthmother sign relinquishment papers?	8. What is the length of time given a birthmother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?	9. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?
Yes, through a Registry	At 18 with Registry	No set time	20 days	1 year
No, except with court order	No, except with court order. Original birth certificate available upon consent of birth parents	Any time--usually after discharge from hospital	10 working days	3 months minimum except when waived by court
No	Only with court order	72 hours	None	None for agency placement; 6 months for other
No	No except with court order	72 hours	Until court hearing for relinquishment	9 months usually
No	No	Depends on agency	When parental rights are terminated	Not specified. Usually 9 to 12 months
No	At age 25 adoptee may have access to birth certificate if birth parent has signed consent	No specific waiting period	Irrevocable	4 to 8 weeks between filing petition to adopt and final adoption
No	Upon petition to court (has mutual consent registry)	After release from hospital when free from drugs	Cannot be nullified	6 months
No	Only with court order	72 hours	Up to the final decree of adoption	6 months
No	No	72 hours usual	Consent is binding when signed	6 months
Only non-identifying information	Only with court order	Immediately after birth	No provision for revoking relinquishment	No set time. Depends on attorney and court
No except through Registry	Through Registry	No statutory time limit	30 days	6 months
No	Not without court order	Law does not state; when mentally alert	3 months in non-agency; 30 days in agency relinquishment	Agency placements 1 year; Independent placements 1 year from interlocutory decree

1985 State Adoption Facts and Regulations

State	1. Is independent adoption legal?	2a. In an independent adoption is a home study required before placement?	b. Before final-ization?	c. Not at all?	3. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?	4. Can prospective adoptive parents from another state apply for adoption in your state?
North Dakota............	No	No	Yes		Yes	Yes
Ohio....................	Yes by birth parent and approval of probate court	Yes			Yes	Yes
Oklahoma................	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes
Oregon..................	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes
Pennsylvania............	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes
Rhode Island............	No	No	Yes		No	Yes
South Carolina..........	Yes	Law requires; Judge can waive			Not through an agency	Yes. Special Needs children (agency). For infants (priva
South Dakota............	Yes	No	Yes		Yes	Yes
Tennessee...............	Yes. Placement by third party illegal	No	Yes		Yes	Not usually
Texas...................	Only if birth parent is placing child	No	Yes		No	Only if Texas serves their area
Utah....................	Yes	No	Only if court requests it		No	Only for Special Needs children
Vermont.................	Yes	No, if all parties are Vermont residents	Yes		Yes	Yes
Virginia................	No	Illegal in Virginia			Yes	Yes

5. Does your state permit access to adoption records without a court order?	6. Are sealed records available to adoptees at age 18? 21? Ever?	7. How soon after birth can the birthmother sign relinquishment papers?	8. What is the length of time given a birthmother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?	9. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?
No	Non-identifying at age 18. At age 21 agency must get consent from birth parents/ siblings for information if adoptee requests	Immediately	10 days	Approximately 1 month
No	With court order (has mutual consent registry)	72 hours	Public Agencies--after court approval of surrender	6 months
No	By court order	Immediately unless Indian & under Indian Welfare Act	30 days	6 months
No except for Registry	Only for non-identifying information or by Registry	Immediately	Depends on circumstances	Approximately 90 days
No	Yes, must get consent from birth parents	30 days	No less than 10 days	No time limit established by law
No	No	Immediately	6 months	4-6 weeks
No	Only by court order (has registry)	Can be immediate. Policy--after 24 hours	Irrevocable	Can be immediate. Generally 2-6 weeks depending on court calendar
Yes. Court file	With court order (has registry)	5 days	30 days	Minimum of 10 days
Yes, at age of 25	Yes, must get consent from birth parents	Immediately	30 days with agency 90 days for independent surrender	6 months provided child has been in home 1 year
Not for identifying information	Only if court ordered (has mutual consent registry)	Immediately. Hearing cannot be held until child is 5 days old.	60 days. If DHR or a licensed agency is child's managing conservator, relinquishment is not revocable	Depends on court docket. Approximately 60 days
No	Only with a court order	Law does not specify	Until placement of the child	When child has been in home 6 months
No	No	Immediately	30 days. After relinquishment accepted by court, must appeal to Supreme Court	6 months
Yes, non-identifying information only if court order needed for identifying information	At age 18 (See item 5)	Direct placement 10 days. Agency placement any time but not effective for 25 days	Until child is placed in adoptive home	75 days in agency placement; 8-9 months in independent adoptions

1985 State Adoption Facts and Regulations

State	1. Is independent adoption legal?	2a. In an independent adoption is a home study required before placement?	b. Before finalization?	c. Not at all?	3. Is it legal for a private-for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency?	4. Can prospective adoptive parents from another state apply for adoption in your state?
Washington..............	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Not to public agency
West Virginia...........	Yes	Before finalization--by law change in 1984			Yes	Not through agency but can through independent adoption
Wisconsin...............	Not by attorneys	Yes			Yes	No
Wyoming.................	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No

5. Does your state permit access to adoption records without a court order?	6. Are sealed records available to adoptees at age 18? 21? Ever?	7. How soon after birth can the birthmother sign relinquishment papers?	8. What is the length of time given a birthmother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?	9. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption?
No	Only with court order	Before birth	48 hours after birth, or, until court has had hearings. May not be less than 48 hours	No specific time
Non-identifying information only	With court order only	If signed before 72 hours it is revokable within 10 days	If signed before 72 hours it is revokable within 10 days. If child has been with parent during past year, parent can revoke within 72 hours. Not a law. Only true with public agency because of court case	6 months
Limited	Genetic, medical and social history at 18	Court appearance any time after birth of child	90 days	6 months
No	No	24 hours	None	6 months

Definitions of terms:

Interlocutory decree of adoption: a temporary decree; courts generally order a study of the adoptive placement to during the time between the interlocutory decree and the final decree.

Relinquishment: termination of parental rights which is effected prior to the adoption decree.

Consent: a signed consent to the adoption executed by the biological parent; where only a consent is executed, full termination of parental rights occurs at the time of the final adoption decree.

Independent adoption: adoptive placement made by a private party and not by a licensed or authorized agency; also called private placements.

Mutual consent adoption registry: allows adoptees and birthparents to register with a state or agency operated registry if they desire a meeting; when a match is made, the state will facillitate a meeting.

N/A - Not Applicable

N/R - Not Reported

B. Immigration and Naturalization Service: Summary of Petition Procedures for Adopting a Foreign Infant

FASTEST WAY	OTHER WAY
How To Start	How to Start
1. File advance processing application before orphan is known.	1. Find an orphan to adopt.
2. Find an orphan to adopt.	2. File orphan petition in behalf of orphan.
3. Then file orphan petition in behalf of orphan.	
Forms and Documents	Forms and Documents
Advance Processing	
1. Form I-600A, Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition.	1. Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative.
2. The fingerprints of each prospective adoptive parent on Form FD-258.	2. The fingerprints of each adoptive or prospective adoptive parent on Form FD-258.
3. Proof of the prospective petitioner's United States citizenship.	3. Proof of the petitioner's United States citizenship.
4. Proof of the marriage of the prospective petitioner and spouse, if married.	4. Proof of the marriage of the petitioner and spouse, if married.
5. Proof of termination of any prior marriages of the prospective petitioner and spouse or unmarried prospective petitioner, if applicable.	5. Proof of termination of any prior marriages of the petitioner and spouse or unmarried petitioner, if applicable.
6. A favorably recommended home study.	6. A favorably recommended home study.
Orphan Petition*	
1. Form I-600, Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative.	

2. Proof of the orphan's age.

3. Death certificate(s) of the orphan's parent(s), if applicable.

4. Evidence that the orphan's sole or surviving parent cannot provide for the orphan's care and has, in writing, forever or irrevocably released the orphan for emigration and adoption, if the orphan has only one parent.

5. A final decree of adoption, if the orphan has been adopted abroad.

6. Evidence that the orphan has been unconditionally abandoned to an orphanage, if the orphan is in an orphanage.

7. Evidence that the preadoption requirements, if any, of the state of the orphan's proposed residence have been met, if the orphan is to be adopted in the United States.

7. Proof of the orphan's age

8. Death certificate(s) of the orphan's parent(s), if applicable.

9. Evidence that the orphan's sole or surviving parent cannot provide for the orphan's care and has, in writing, forever or irrevocably released the orphan for emigration and adoption, if the orphan has only one parent.

10. A final decree of adoption, if the orphan has been adopted abroad.

11. Evidence that the orphan has been unconditionally abandoned to an orphanage, if the orphan is in an orphanage.

12. Evidence that the preadoption requirements, if any, of the state of the orphan's proposed residence have been met, if the orphan is to be adopted in the United States.

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*If filed while an advance processing application is pending or within one year of a favorable determination in a completed advance processing case.

Detailed information is available in an Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Publication Form 249, The Immigration of Adopted and Prospective Adoptive Children. The following list of INS offices is from that publication.

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE OFFICES.

1. District Offices In The United States.

Anchorage, AK 99513
New Federal Bldg.
701 C Street, RM D-251
Lock Box 16

Atlanta, GA 30303
Richard B. Russell
Federal Office Bldg.
75 Spring Street, S.W.
Room 1408

Baltimore, MD 21201
E.A. Garmatz Federal Bldg.
101 West Lombard Street

Boston, MA 02203
John Fitzgerald Kennedy
Federal Bldg.
Government Center

Buffalo, NY 14202
68 Court Street

Chicago, IL 60604
Dirksen Federal Office Bldg.
219 South Dearborn Street

Cleveland, OH 44199
RM 1917
Anthony J. Celebreeze
Federal Office Bldg.
1240 East 9th Street

Dallas, TX 75242
RM 6A21, Federal Bldg.
1100 Commerce Street

Denver, CO 80202
1787 Federal Bldg.
1961 Stout Street

Detroit, MI 48207
Federal Bldg.
333 Mt. Elliott Street

El Paso, TX 79984
343 U.S. Courthouse
P.O. Box 9398

Harlingen, TX 78550
2102 Teege Road

Hartford, CT 06103-3060
Ribicoff Federal Bldg.
450 Main Street

Helena, MT 59626
Federal Bldg., RM 512
310 South Park, Drawer 10036

Honolulu, HI 96809
P.O. Box 461
595 Ala Moana Blvd.

Houston, TX 77004
2627 Caroline Street

Kansas City, MO 64106
Suite 1100
324 East Eleventh Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012
300 North Los Angeles Street

Miami, FL 33138
7880 Biscayne Blvd.

Newark, NJ 07102
Federal Bldg.
970 Broad Street

New Orleans, LA 70113
Postal Service Bldg.
RM T-8005
701 Loyola Avenue

New York, NY 10278
26 Federal Plaza

Omaha, NE 68102
Federal Office Bldg.
RM 1008
106 South 15th Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106
U.S. Courthouse, RM 1321
Independence Mall West
601 Market Street

Phoenix, AZ 85025
Federal Bldg.
230 North First Avenue

Portland, ME 04112
76 Pearl Street

Portland, OR 97209
Federal Office Bldg.
511 N.W. Broadway

St. Paul, MN 55101
927 Main Post Office Bldg.
180 East Kellogg Blvd.

San Antonio, TX 78206
U.S. Federal Bldg.
Suite A301
727 East Durango

San Diego, CA 92188
880 Front Street

San Francisco, CA 94111
Appraisers Bldg.
630 Sansome Street

San Juan, PR 00936
GPO Box 5068

Seattle, WA 98134
815 Airport Way, South

Washington, DC 20013
25 E Street, N.W.
P.O. Box 37034

2. **Other Service Offices In The United States.**

Agana, GU 96910
801 Pacific News Bldg.
238 O'Hara Street

Albany, NY 12207
RM 220
U.S. Post Office & Courthouse
445 Broadway

Albuquerque, NM 87103
Federal Bldg., U.S. Courthouse
RM 5512, 500 Gold Avenue, S.W.
Box 567

Charleston, SC 29403
Federal Bldg., RM 330
334 Meeting Street

Charlotte, NC 28205
1111 Hawthorne Lane

Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, VI 00801
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Boxc 610

Christiansted, St. Croix,
VI 00850
P.O. Box 1270 Kingshill

Cincinnati, OH 45201
U.S. Post Office &
Courthouse
100 East 5th Street
P.O. Box 537

Fresno, CA 93721
U.S. Courthouse
Federal Bldg., RM 1308
1130 O Street

Indianapolis, IN 46204
RM 148
46 East Ohio Street

Jacksonville, FL 32201
311 West Monroe Street
RM 227, Post Office Bldg.
P.O. Box 4608

Las Vegas, NV 89101
Federal Bldg., U.S.Courthouse
300 Las Vegas Blvd. South

Louisville, KY 40202
RM 601, U.S. Courthouse Bldg.
West 6th & Broadway

Memphis, TN 38103
814 Federal Office Bldg.
167 North Main Street

Merrillville, IN 46410
51 West 80th Place
Georgetown Plaza

Milwaukee, WI 53202
RM 186, Federal Bldg.
517 East Wisconsin Avenue

Norfolk, VA 23510
Norfolk Federal Bldg.
RM 439, 200 Granby Mall

Oklahoma City, OK 73102
RM 4423, 200 N.W. 4th St.
Federal Bldg. & Courthouse

Pittsburgh, PA 15222
2130 Federal Bldg.
1000 Liberty Avenue

Providence, RI 02903
Federal Bldg.
U.S. Post Office
Exchange Terrace

Reno, NV 89502
Suite 150
350 South Center Street

St. Albans, VT 05478
Federal Bldg.
P.O. Box 328

St. Louis, MO 63101
RM 100
210 North Tucker Blvd.

Salt Lake City, UT 84101
230 West 400 South Street

San Jose, CA 95113
280 South First Street

Spokane, WA 99201
691 U.S. Courthouse Bldg.

Tampa, FL 33602
RM 539
500 Zack Street

Tuscon, AZ 85701
RM 8-M, Federal Bldg.
301 W. Congress

3. Service Offices In Foreign Countries.

Athens, Greece
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Embassy
APO NY 09253

Bangkok, Thailand
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Embassy
APO San Francisco, CA 96346

Frankfurt, Germany
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Consulate
General, Box 12
APO NY 09213

Guadalajara, Jal., Mexico
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Consulate
General
Box 3088, Laredo, TX 78044

Hong Kong, British Crown Colony
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Consulate
General, Box 30
FPO San Francisco, CA 96659

Manila, Philippines
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Embassy
1201 Roxas Blvd.
APO San Francisco, CA 96528

Mexico City, Mexico
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization
Service, C/O American Embassy
P.O. Box 3087
Laredo, TX 78041

Monterrey, N.L., Mexico
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Consulate General
P.O. Box 3098
Laredo, TX 78044

Montevideo, Uruguay
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Embassy
APO Miami, FL 34035

Naples, Italy
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Consulate General
Box 18, FPO New York, NY 09521

Rome, Italy
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Embassy
APO New York, NY 09794

Seoul, Korea
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Embassy
APO San Francisco, CA 96301

Singapore, Republic of Singapore
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Embassy
FPO San Francisco, CA 96699

1010 Vienna, Austria
U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service
C/O American Embassy

C. Model Law on Adoption Registries

The controversy over "opening adoption records", or a "Mutual Consent Voluntary Adoption Registry", was one of the issues leading to the establishment of the National Committee For Adoption on June 23, 1980. From that date until now, our founding members--agencies and individuals alike--have been determined to offer a professionally sound, humane, sensitive and practical legislative model act to the States for their consideration in addressing this controversy.

In the intervening months, those same agencies and individuals have been involved in an intensive review of existing legislation and approaches concerning "open records" in a search for a workable "registry." Drafts of model acts which would establish registries have been circulated, debated and amended. The basic concepts and principles underlying this final document reflect the suggestions, in writing and in person, of hundreds of concerned people. The final document is entitled "AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL CONSENT VOLUNTARY ADOPTION REGISTRY AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE TRANSMISSION OF NONIDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON THE HEALTH HISTORY AND THE GENETIC AND SOCIAL HISTORY OF ADOPTEES". It is 15 pages in length, and is available for $2.00 plus postage from NCFA.

Because this document deals with one of the most complex constructions of American society, the "adoption circle," it necessarily reflects that complexity in its approach. There are, we concluded, few clear-cut answers to questions that affect so many lives so intimately.

The document is also, admittedly, an imperfect and evolving approach. It is imperfect because the need to provide States with something workable to consider required us to set and enforce a deadline for final comments from the many agencies and individuals concerned about this matter. In addition, that need to make decisions required us to use a voting procedure in deciding what would be the final recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee. In turn, our Executive Committee voted to accept the recommendations, with minimal changes and additions, of the Ad Hoc Committee. This material represents, therefore, the majority view of the Ad Hoc Committee and was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Committee For Adoption, on November 2, 1981.

The process of discussion and deliberation which is currently under way in many States, and which will continue as additional States consider this and other approaches relating to the "open records" issue means that there will be evolution and perfection of these recommendations. See section N "Adopted Children and Biological Parents Who Seek Each Other" for further discussion of these issues.

One final note: several States may wish to take no action on NCFA's core recommendation that a registry be established. Those States may determine that since the existing legislation serves approximately 98 percent of those involved in or affected by adoption quite well--that is, they are very comfortable with existing guarantees of privacy and sealed records--no legal steps to establish registries are called for. Should an active debate emerge in any State about these issues, however, NCFA's model legislation has proven to be a useful resource and guide.

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SURVEY OF STATE LAWS AND LEGISLATION ON ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS — 1983

by William L. Pierce, Ph.D.

Dr. Pierce is President of the National Committee For Adoption, Inc., a Washington, D.C., organization concerned with the issues of adoption, services to infertile couples, and pregnancy counseling and maternity services for women. The National Committee For Adoption is a research and educational organization that publishes a variety of materials, holds conferences and training sessions, and issues standards. Before joining the National Committee For Adoption, Dr. Pierce was Assistant Executive Director of the Child Welfare League of America, Inc.

Adoption is a very well-regarded practice in the United States. Most people know people who were adopted, have adopted, or have placed children for adoption and realize how beneficial the practice is for individuals and for society. As a matter of law and as an area of professional practice, however, adoption is still being defined.

There was no law governing adoption in the United States until 1851, when Massachusetts enacted the first statute. It was not until 1917 that Minnesota passed the first law providing for the protection of the adoption process, including protection of the privacy rights of those involved in the adoption. As a field of professional practice, there was only a modest set of minimum requirements available, and those were not forthcoming until 1938. After World War II, interest heightened as adoptions became more acceptable, but it was not until 1959 that the first set of standards for adoption were issued by the Child Welfare League of America.

Throughout this first century of adoption law in the United States, and continuing to the present, there has been a strong tradition of protecting the privacy rights of those involved in adoption. This has been emphasized most recently by the publication, in 1981, of a final Model Act relating to adoption which emphasized confidentiality (*Federal Register*, Oct. 8, 1981, p. 50022 ff.). The Model Act reflected Federal government policy in the area.

In 1982, the latest *Provisions for Accreditation* of the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families & Children, Inc., also underscore the need for privacy in adoptions. The Council on Accreditation, made up of five national organizations concerned with adoption, including the Child Welfare League of America, is the largest broad-based standards-setting body in the social services field today. In 1983, the National Committee For Adoption, a group which focuses more narrowly on adoption and related issues, completed its work on its *Statement on Adoption*, which also cites the importance of confidentiality and privacy in adoption services.

The history of adoption laws and practices in the United States has been reflected in corresponding changes within the laws of the various states. From 1917 until the mid 40's, the major effort was one of codifying adoption laws. Later years saw discussions of issues such as race and religion in the State legislatures. And during the last decade, much of the discussion about adoption law has centered on one of two topics — either improving adoption practices so that more so-called "hard-to-place" children (now, preferably, called "children with special needs") could be adopted, or obtaining access to adoption records.

Most discussion of the issue of access to adoption records came about as a result of two forces, both of which came to the attention of the public and policymakers in a dramatic way in the mid-1970s. The more obvious of these forces was the emergence of the "search movement," characterized by a small number of highly visible individuals, often people who had written first-person accounts of their experiences with adoption. These leaders of the search movement and the organizations they formed to provide support for others interested in searching for and having meetings with biological parents, children who had been placed for adoption, or biological siblings, also became politically active.

One group, Adoptees Liberty Movement Association (ALMA), sought to achieve its goals by addressing the courts and challenging the constitutionality of confidential adoption records. The other groups, most notably Concerned United Birthparents (CUB), sought redress through the legislatures. By 1980, an umbrella group, the American Adoption Congress (AAC), had been formed to coordinate the efforts of most of those interested in search and in legislative changes which would provide access to identifying information that would lead to a meeting with blood relatives.

Less obvious, but no less influential, was a movement within the field of social work itself aimed at providing non-identifying information about the health and other background of biological parents to all adopted adults and to arrange, usually through the agency that had been involved with the adoption, meetings between persons who had indicated a mutual desire to get together. In many agencies, informal systems were set up whereby clients could waive their privacy rights and indicate their desire for a meeting.

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Beginning in the mid-1970s, these two forces began to address the various state legislatures. As a result, bills were introduced that would open adoption records, usually at the request of those in the search movement. Other bills, usually drafted by adoption agencies in collaboration with search groups, were introduced to set up mechanisms for receiving waivers of privacy and, in some instances, means whereby people could be contacted confidentially and informed that another person wished to have a meeting with them.

During the 1970s, no states opened adoption records as a result of the advocacy of the search movement. However, a number of states enacted laws that provided for a search for the biological parent or parents in order to try and obtain consent for a meeting. By 1980, five states had such laws: Connecticut, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Concurrently, states were also considering laws that would establish "registries" — systems whereby persons directly involved in adoptions could register their willingness to meet. Discussion of the registry idea grew to the point where, by 1980, when the National Committee For Adoption was formed, enactment of registries was one of that organization's major goals. Today 10 states with nearly half the population of the United States have registry laws. Those states are California, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Oregon, and Texas. Four of the ten states passed registry laws in 1983 alone — Colorado, New York, Oregon, and Texas.

The search movement, stalled in its attempts to get the courts to overturn laws protecting confidentiality in adoption and making no headway in encouraging additional states to open up adoption records, began to focus on a new tactic. That tactic, pioneered in one county in the state of Washington by the Washington Adoptees Rights Movement (WARM), involves having the search group itself appointed as an arm of the court. In King County Court, WARM volunteers to serve as an arm of the court, obtains access to confidential adoption records, conducts searches, contacts people once they have been found, and generally acts as the liaison between all parties. The search group has the advantage of being a free resource to the court. The court has the advantage of obtaining the services of a group with a wide-ranging set of techniques for finding people. And, according to the search group, because of the way that it presents the matter to people when they are found, the overwhelming majority of people contacted are willing to attend a meeting.

This "WARM-type" approach to undertaking a search and obtaining consent for a meeting has been introduced in several legislatures. In some states, as in Pennsylvania, this approach is introduced in lieu of the mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry approach preferred by most agencies and endorsed by the National Committee For Adoption. For instance, this has been the situation in Ohio, where a "WARM-type" bill has passed one house. In Ohio, search groups were also able to add language to the bill opening one large group of adoption records. This tactic was also used in Illinois, in lieu of going after a bill that would simply open adoption records.

At the present time, there appear to be four trends in the states related to adoption records. There are the two trends mentioned above — the movement toward enacting mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry laws and the movement toward enacting "WARM-type" laws. These are active movements. There are also trends that reflect an attempt to maintain the status quo. In some states, there are adoptive parent groups who oppose any legislative change, including enactment of the mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry. California, Illinois, and Massachusetts are states where there are active groups opposing registries as "going too far." Based on the actions of these legislatures, the efforts can be said to be partially successful to date.

There is also a trend, among the search groups, to protect the laws that provide them means to obtain identifying information. This is most evident in Kansas, where a substantial effort was made to keep the legislature from considering a registry — either in lieu of or as a supplement to the existing open records law. It has also been evident in Pennsylvania, although there is some search group support for the "WARM-type" bills.

Generally, the postures of the competing groups regarding state legislation look like this. On one end of the spectrum, adoptive parent groups who feel strongly about the past promises of confidentiality are opposing any change in state laws. At the other end of the spectrum, the search groups believe that open records are inevitable if they persist in their advocacy. The search groups see any change, including those recommended by the agencies that do not involve providing identifying information, as beneficial. They see the laws as a continuum, and are willing to temporarily compromise — even on a mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry — because they see any movement as positive. In the center are those individuals, professionals and agencies who acknowledge that there is a need to provide important medical and other non-identifying information to those affected by adoption, and who see the more passive approach of the mutual consent adoption registry as a sensible solution to the conflict.

Thus far, and especially since 1980, most of the legislative change has been in the area of the mutual consent adoption registries. Ten states now have these laws in effect. The registry idea, or other approaches that would tighten up access to records, have been the focus of legislative interest in another four states — Alabama, Alaska, Kansas, and Pennsylvania.

On the other side of the issue, legislative activity that would have the effect of providing more access to records is taking place in nine other states — California, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, and Ohio.

In many of the remaining states, the legislative situation is a stalemate, with no perceivable trend evident.

In the near-term, it would appear that the efforts of the parent groups focused on maintaining the status quo of sealed records will increasingly run into difficulty. Virtually no professionals or adoption agencies support their view; instead, they believe that the mutual consent voluntary registry is needed. At the same time, more and more state legislators seem to be convinced that the mutual consent voluntary registry is the soundest approach, as is evident by the laws enacted during 1983 alone. Finally, there is a growing acknowledgement by the public that these passive registries are the best solution to the controversy. Evidence of this is clear, among other places, in the editorial endorsement of *The Washington Post*. In a September 10, 1983, editorial entitled "Unsealing Adoption Records," the Post said: "Registries are a sensible and humane approach to a sensitive and emotional subject."

Whatever the approach, adoption is a subject that has received a great deal of attention in the state legislatures. Following is a state-by-state listing of the status of state legislation and laws on access to adoption records, as of December 1983. And, following this list is a summary of the states' laws.

DESCRIPTION OF "ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS OR INFORMATION": STATE LAWS AND LEGISLATION

1. Alabama.

Original birth records opened on demand of the adult adopted person or adoptive parents.

H.B. 152 was introduced on April 19, 1983. The bill, as amended by the Judiciary Committee, would allow automatic access unless the biological parents have filed a written consent allowing access with the state registrar of vital statistics. This bill was reported out of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee, but was not voted on by the Senate before adjournment on August 1.

2. Alaska.

Original birth certificate opened on demand of the adult adopted person with court decision.

H.B. 412 was introduced providing for a standardized form for nonidentifying information on the health history of the biological parents and relatives and adopted child. S.B. 241 would establish a system whereby access to adoption information would be granted to adopted adults only if the biological parent has filed a consent for disclosure statement. Nonidentifying information would also be required to be collected. Both bills are being held over to the 1984 legislative session.

3. Arizona.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

4. Arkansas.

Confidential identifying information, access only by court order.

A new law (Act 175), signed by the Governor on February 15, 1983, requires nonidentifying information including date of birth, weight at birth and complete nonidentifying health history of biological parents and other relatives to be provided to adoptive parents and adult adopted person. This information must be collected by any agency, individual or entity that arranges adoptions.

5. California.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry, effective January 1, 1983 (chapter 990, 1982, A.B. 3040). Waivers of confidentiality can be accepted from adult adopted person, biological parents, and any living adoptive parent by Dept. of Social Services or licensed adoption agency. Contact is arranged if each has filed a waiver.

On September 27, 1983, the Governor signed A.B.2096 (Chapter 1162), a bill which makes a number of important changes in California's registry. The most significant change is one which drops the requirement that the adoptive parent agree, by filing a waiver, to a meeting between an adult adopted person and a biological parent. This change will be effective for all adoptions finalized after January 1, 1984. In addition, a provision has been added which allows the State Department of Social Services to disclose the identity of a biological parent to an adoptive parent, if that adoptive parent petitions on behalf of a child under 21, and if the Department finds that a "medical necessity or other extraordinary circumstances justify the disclosure." The new procedure would allow a match and a meeting between the adult adopted person and any one biological parent, including the biological father.

A.B. 2096 also requires, for adoptions taking place after January 1, 1984, that independent (non-agency) adoptions must involve the submission of a medical report on the child's medical background to the prospective adoptive parents. The county adoption departments will be preparing this report, rather than the intermediary who arranged the adoption.

A.B. 2096, as it passed the Assembly, would have authorized open records on the demand of an adult adopted person 21 or older. However, the Senate significantly amended the Assembly bill.

6. Colorado.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry law signed by the Governor on June 15, 1983 (H.B. 1411). This new law establishes a registry by the State registrar of vital statistics to facilitate contact between an adopted person 21 years old or older, biological parents and relatives of deceased adopted persons or biological parents.

This new law was a result of regulations proposed by the Dept. of Health in October 1982 which were rejected by the Legislature due to the view that Colorado's law must be changed before a registry could be implemented.

7. Connecticut.

At the petition of an adult adopted person, a search to obtain consent of biological parents to waive confidentiality must be carried out by an adoption agency or the Dept. of Children & Youth Services. If the biological parents refuse, the adopted person can appeal to an adoption records review board for access to identifying information. Adult adopted persons and adoptive parents are to receive nonidentifying genetic, social and health history concerning the biological parents.

Two bills were introduced, but did not pass, which would broaden the law to allow biological parents to request searches for consent from an adult adopted person to release of identifying information. (H.B. 801 and H.B. 6128). The House Judiciary Committee also introduced a bill, 1131, allowing adult adopted persons to request identifying information from appropriate adoption agencies, give nonidentifying information to biological parents, and establish registries at the probate court level. This bill was not acted upon.

8. Delaware.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

9. District of Columbia.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

10. Florida.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry is operating, effective April 29, 1983 (Chapter 82-166). The Florida Office of Vital Statistics allows adult adopted persons, biological parents, adoptive parents, biological siblings and biological grandparents to register identifying information as well as to whom information can be shared. $35 is the fee for registration, with a $10 fee for updating information. Counseling on a fee basis is available to any registrant.

11. Georgia.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Legislation (S.B. 291) has been introduced which would provide access to confidential records by the Dept. of Human Resources or a licensed adoption agency without a court order in order to release nonidentifying medical information or other information needed by parties to the adoption. The bill is being held over until the January 1984 legislative session.

12. Hawaii.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

H.B. 34, signed into law on June 8, 1983 (Act 213), does provide for the release of identity and location of adoptive parents (foster parents and foster care facility staff parents) with their consent. If the Dept. determines that confidentiality would be in the best interest of the child, the identity and location will remain confidential.

13. Idaho.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Two bills introduced this session, H.B. 220 and H.B. 58, dealt with access to adoption records. Both failed.

14. Illinois.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

A registry bill, H.B. 1853, was introduced but did not pass. This bill was problematic because it would have allowed access to records for "psychological need." A "WARM-type" bill providing for searches, H.B. 765, also did not pass. Efforts to pass a medical information registry as an amendment to a tax deduction for adoption bill (S. 620) did not succeed in final hours of the session.

15. Indiana.

A new law, signed April 5, 1983 (H.B. 1880), provides for access to confidential, original birth certificate if the petitioner has shown the court that emergency medical need or similar good cause for release of information exists.

S.B. 259, introduced this session, but which did not pass, would have disclosed names of biological parents on demand to adopted child, adoptive parents, *adoptive siblings*, biological siblings, *biological aunt, uncle or first cousin* (emphasis added).

16. Iowa.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

H.F. 642 would open records to adult adopted persons and provide for open adoptions. H.C. Res. 31 calls for a joint House-Senate Study Committee to address opening up adoption records. These bills were laid over in committee. Action is possible in January 1984.

17. Kansas.

Original birth record opened on demand of the adult adopted person.

On August 8, 1983, a hearing was held by a Special Committee on the Judiciary to discuss the establishment of a mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry and to end the automatic access to original birth records which has been in effect since 1943. The Committee decided that it is not desirable to implement a registry at this time.

18. Kentucky.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

In 1982 a law was enacted allowing adopted persons 18 years or older to register with the Dept. of Human Resources in order to have contact with a pre-adoptive sibling if he or she has also voluntarily registered. (S.B. 366).

19. Louisiana.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry law signed by the Governor on July 9, 1982 (Act 40). This law establishes a registry by the Dept. of Health and Human Resources to facilitate contact between the adopted person, 25 years or older, the biological mother, and the biological father if he has formally acknowledged his paternity through the laws of the state. Registration fee is $25. Counseling after registration is required.

20. Maine.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry was enacted in 1979 (Chapter 384). The registry is maintained by the State Registrar of Vital Statistics to facilitate contact between the adopted person 18 years or older or adoptive parents of a child less than 18 years old, and the biological parents.

A bill, L.D. 704, establishing a search for biological parents to obtain consent to waive confidentiality was defeated in the House and the Senate during this legislative session. Efforts to improve the current mutual consent, voluntary registry approach are being planned by supportive agencies and groups.

21. Maryland.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

A bill approved by the Senate, S. 573, authorizing courts to release identifying information on biological siblings for medical treatment purposes did pass the House. Another bill, H.B. 1405, which would have allowed access to original birth certificates for research purposes, was killed in Committee.

22. Massachusetts.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry bills were introduced during this legislative session, H.B. 5377 and S.B. 1093. Both of these bills died in Committee. S.B. 922, a bill which would have allowed an adopted child as young as age 12 to obtain identifying information and see adoption records and to obtain the original birth certificate at age 18, was reported out of Committee but made no further progress.

23. Michigan.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry was enacted in 1980 (Act 116). The Dept. of Social Services operates the registry where biological parents can consent or deny release of their name and address by submitting a statement to the registry. Adopted persons aged 18 or over can request identifying information and will receive it for the biological parent(s) who has filed a consent as long as there is not a denial from one of the biological parents. Non-identifying information is provided to the adult adopted person upon request. As of February 1983, 103 matches consenting to contact have occurred and 2 matches denying contact have occurred.

24. Minnesota.

At the request of an adopted person 21 years or older, a search to obtain consent of biological parents to waive confidentiality of the original birth certificate must be carried out by the adoption agency or the county Dept. of Public Welfare. This law passed in 1977 and was amended in 1982 (Chapter No. 584). At age 19, an adopted person may request a search to establish contact with members of the biological family including siblings. A biological parent can also initiate a request for a search to establish contact with the adopted person age 19 or older. Adoptive parents of adopted children under 19 can also request a search for contact. When an agency receives information about significant medical or genetic conditions, it must contact those members of the adoption circle to whom the information would be important. Persons can at any time request that updated information be placed into an agency record. General information, not including names and addresses, is available to adoptive parents and adopted persons age 19 or older. If a biological parent is dead, identifying information will be given to the adopted person upon demand.

25. Mississippi.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

26. Missouri.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

A bill granting access to original birth certificate to adult adopted person (H.B. 363) died in Judiciary Committee this legislative session.

27. Montana.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

28. Nebraska.

At the request of an adopted person 25 years or older who has the consent of his adoptive parents, a search to obtain the consent of the biological parents to release identifying information must be carried out by an agency. This law was passed in 1980 (L.B. 992).

A bill introduced in the 1983 session, L.B. 283, would open all records pertaining to the adoption at the demand of the adult adopted person. This bill, reported out by the Judiciary Committee, will be up for its first round of floor debate in the January 1984 session.

29. Nevada.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry was enacted in 1979. The Nevada State Welfare Division operates the registry for adopted persons 18 or older and for biological parents. Information about only one biological parent will be shared with the adopted person.

30. New Hampshire.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

31. New Jersey.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Although a mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry bill was introduced in this legislative session, that bill, A.B. 1773, did not move. Neither did a bill allowing adopted persons 18 or older access to adoption records, A.B. 228. This stalemate is typical of the situation in states where there are strong, well-organized groups advocating opposing views on the open records issue. In New Jersey, the Dept. of Youth and Family Services operates a registry for its own placements. In addition, a state court case has been interpreted as allowing agencies to undertake "search-and-consent" procedures for some clients.

32. New Mexico.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

33. New York.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry law was signed by the Governor on August 10, 1983 (Chapter 898).

This law establishes a mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry for adopted persons 21 years or older (with adoptive parents' consent for adoptions prior to 1984) and biological parent. It is run by the Bureau of Vital Records in the State Department of Health. Voluntary, licensed adoption agencies may also run registries on behalf of clients they have served. The target date for the State's Adoption Information Registry to begin operations is January 1, 1984. By the end of December, more than 1,000 requests for information about registering had been received.

34. North Carolina.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

A law enacted in 1981 (Chapter 924) requires written nonidentifying information to be provided to adoptive parents and to an adopted person 21 years or older.

35. North Dakota.

At the request of an adopted person 21 years or older a search to obtain the consent of biological parents to release identifying information must be conducted by the adoption agency involved in the adoption. This law was enacted in 1979 and was amended in 1983 (H.B. 1129) to include the consent of biological siblings and to provide services to determine an adopted person's eligibility for enrollment as a member of an Indian tribe.

36. Ohio.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

Ohio is one of several states where the "WARM-type" legislative approach is being taken by those seeking to open adoption records. Substitute H.B. 84, which passed the Assembly June 30, 1983, would establish procedures for a mutual registration and consent registry, but a close reading of the complete bill indicates that it has several of the features of "WARM-type" legislation. In essence, it sets up a situation where any judge may appoint an intermediary agency to review confidential information and to discuss the ramifications of a meeting with the adult adopted person. Since there is no provision in the law for paying an agency for these activities, it is possible that the only entitites interested in providing these services, especially for adoptions that did not take place through licensed agencies, would be the various search groups. H.B. 84 also features a provision, contained in two paragraphs of the bill, which would eliminate the circumstances under which pre-1964 birth certificates can be sealed.

There are a variety of other features of H.B. 84 which are controversial and which will probably prompt strong opposition once Senate consideration begins. The bill was assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee on December 1, 1983.

37. Oklahoma.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

The Dept. of Human Resources operates a mutual consent, voluntary registry for those who were adopted through the public agency only (around 10,000 adoptions).

38. Oregon.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry law was signed by the Governor on August 2, 1983 (H.B. 2598-B-Engrossed).

This law creates a mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry operated by public and private agencies for adopted persons 21 years or older, adoptive parents of a deceased adopted person, and biological parents. Nonidentifying information would also be shared. The Act is effective January 1, 1984.

39. Pennsylvania.

Original birth certificates opened on demand of the adopted person 18 years or older. Biological parents can "update" their names and addresses with the Dept. of Health. Allowing "updating" was established through regulation rather than law.

Identical bills were introduced in the Senate (S.B. 990) and the House (H.B. 278) which would limit access to original birth records. S.B. 990 and H.B. 278 would also provide for other changes in Pennsylvania's adoption procedures, including the establishment of a "WARM-type" search-and-consent procedure for those adopted person seeking identifying information. Neither bill made any progress. "Search" groups opposed the legislation primarily because it closed the loophole in the vital statistics law. Groups representing adopted persons, biological parents, adoptive parents and adoption agencies opposed the search-and-consent aspects of the legislation.

40. Rhode Island.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

41. South Carolina.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

42. South Dakota.

Court records in adoption proceedings are open to inspection by adoptive parents and the adult adopted person by court decision.

43. Tennessee.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

A 1982 law provides for the release of nonidentifying information to an adopted person 18 years or older or adoptive parents upon written request.

A 1979 law allows pre-adoptive siblings the opportunity to request identifying information about the other(s) upon consent.

A bill passed this legislative session, H.B. 602/S.B. 530, which was effective only from 5/18/83 - 6/18/83 allowing non-adopted persons to request, through the court, contact with adopted siblings, at least 26 years of age.

44. Texas.

Mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry law signed by the Governor on June 16, 1983 (H.B. 1174). This new law establishes registries by the Dept. of Human Resources and licensed adoption agencies to facilitate contact between adopted person 21 years or older, biological parents and biological siblings. The registry is effective January 1, 1984.

45. Utah.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

H.B. 96, a bill establishing a mutual consent, voluntary adoption registry by the Dept. of Vital Records, passed the House, but died in Senate Committee.

46. Vermont.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

H.B. 218, a bill facilitating voluntary contact of adopted person 18 years or older, while protecting confidential information, has been referred to Judiciary Committee where it can be taken up in January 1984.

47. Virginia.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

48. Washington.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

49. West Virginia.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

50. Wisconsin.

At the request of an adopted person 21 years or older, a search to obtain consent of biological parents for disclosure of health, genetic and identifying information must be carried out by Dept. of Health and Social Services or a designated adoption agency. If biological parents are alive and refuse consent, an adopted person may petition the circuit court. The law became effective in May 1982 (Chapter 359).

A.B. 150, concerning disclosure of social and genetic history information about adopted children, was placed on the calendar in the October legislative period. However, A.B. 150 was not heard and is now back in the Assembly Committee on Rules.

51. Wyoming.

Confidential adoption records, access only by court order.

IN THE LEGISLATURES

ILLINOIS, OHIO, PENNSYLVANIA ENACT LAWS ON ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS

FLR updates adoption monograph.

Illinois, Ohio, and Pennsylvania have adopted legislation to facilitate adoptees' access to adoption information, according to Dr. William Pierce, president of the National Committee for Adoption, Inc. Updating his monograph, "Survey of State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records — 1983," 10 FLR 3035, Dr. Pierce notes that 12 states, including Illinois and Ohio, now provide for voluntary, mutual-consent registries, while six states, including Pennsylvania, allow "search and consent" procedures.

In Illinois, a mutual-consent, voluntary-adoption registry law (P.A. 83-1408) was signed by the governor on September 12, 1984. The law provides for the establishment of an adoption registry within the state Department of Public Health. It also provides that non-identifying information on birth parents must be provided to adoptive parents and adult adoptees.

A two-part law in Ohio (H.B. 84) was signed by the governor on December 17, 1984. This law gives persons adopted before January 1, 1984, access to birth certificates and papers or documents that pertain to either the birth certificate or the adoption. In essence, according to Dr. Pierce, this part of the law restores the "open records" status of records that were open prior to the enactment of legislation that sealed them. In addition, the law provides for the establishment of a complicated mutual-consent, voluntary registry functioning through the probate courts.

On December 12, 1984, the governor of Pennsylvania signed a two-part law (P.L. 195) that repeals certain sections of the vital statistics law insofar as they are inconsistent with existing law relating to the impounding of proceedings and access to adoption records. Legislation had been enacted that was interpreted by the state attorney general as voiding Pennsylvania's confidentiality-of-adoption provisions, thus allowing adopted persons to obtain, on demand, a copy of their original birth certificates at age 18. This law remedies that situation. At the same time, the law provides for the establishment of a system whereby adopted persons at least 18 years of age, or their parents, may obtain identifying information about biological parents. The system essentially allows an agency that placed a child for adoption or an agent of the court (which must be the county children's or youth agency or a licensed adoption agency) to make contact with a biological parent and to learn whether that parent would be willing to have identifying information released. It also sets up a system whereby biological parents may file a consent to be contacted at any time — in effect, a mutual-consent, voluntary-adoption registry.

Dr. Pierce suggests the following changes to his monograph: Pennsylvania should be put under the "Search & Consent Procedures" column, Illinois and Ohio should be deleted from the "Confidential Records" column and placed in the "Registry" column, and a footnote should be added to Ohio indicating that records of those adopted prior to January 1, 1964, are now open.

IN THE LEGISLATURES

FIVE MORE STATES ENACT LAWS ALLOWING EASIER ACCESS TO ADOPTION RECORDS

FLR monograph on access to adoption information updated.

The movement toward allowing adopted children easier access to their adoption records is gaining momentum across the country, according to Dr. William Pierce, president of the National Committee For Adoption, Inc. In a second update of his monograph, "Survey of State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records—1983," 10 FLR 3035, Dr. Pierce notes that Arkansas, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee recently adopted legislation to facilitate adoptees' access to adoption information. See also 11 FLR 1101.

Sixteen states, including Arkansas, Idaho, South Carolina, and South Dakota, now provide for voluntary, mutual-consent registries, which allow adoptees and their natural parents to register their willingness to meet. Seven states, including Tennessee, allow "search and consent" procedures by third-party groups, which act as liaisons between adoptees and parents.

In Arkansas, Act 954 of 1985, which establishes a mutual consent adoption registry, was signed by the governor on April 15. Regulations to implement the new law are being drafted.

H.B. 38 became law in Idaho on July 1. The law provides that a registry be established by the state registrar of vital statistics.

For several years, bills have been introduced in the South Carolina legislature that would establish an adoption registry. This year, the effort was successful, and Gov. Richard Riley signed S.1 into law on June 21. The registry is available to adult adopted persons seeking identifying information about biological parents as well as siblings.

South Dakota enacted S.B. 99, which took effect July 1. The law allows adoptees, birth parents, and siblings to register for a meeting.

In Tennessee, Public Chapter No. 285, signed by the governor on April 30, requires that a diligent search be undertaken at the request of an adoptee or a person who believes he or she has an adopted sibling. The law provides for more access by adoptees to their biological parents than to siblings; if either biological parent cannot be located, the adoption records may be reopened. If siblings cannot be located, the records remain sealed.

In five other states—Indiana, Maine, Maryland, Missouri, and Nebraska—significant action regarding access to adoption records took place. In Indiana, a mutual consent registry bill, S.B. 92, was enacted. It tightens that state's adoption laws so that only medical information may be provided to adoptive parents (see 11 FLR 1472). In Maine, which is a mutual consent registry state, L.D. 1265 died in committee. That bill would have opened adoption records.

A mutual consent registry bill, H.B. 1151, passed the Maryland House of Delegates but died in Senate committee. Missouri failed to enact H.B. 267, a "search and consent" bill, before the June 15 adjournment. In Nebraska, L.B. 477, a bill that would further widen access to records by providing for "implied consent," was not approved and was held over in committee.

Dr. Pierce suggests the following changes to his monograph: Arkansas, Idaho, South Carolina, South Dakota, and Tennessee should be deleted from the "Confidential Records" column; Arkansas, Idaho, South Carolina, and South Dakota should be placed in the "Registry" column; and Tennessee should be placed in the "Search & Consent Procedures" column.

100

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SUMMARY OF STATES' LAWS

CONFIDENTIAL RECORDS

Alaska[1]
Arizona
Delaware
District of Columbia
Georgia
Hawaii
Indiana
Iowa
Kentucky[2]
Maryland
Massachusetts
Mississippi
Missouri
Montana
New Hampshire
New Jersey[3]
New Mexico
North Carolina
Oklahoma[4]
Rhode Island
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington[5]
West Virginia
Wyoming

REGISTRY

Arkansas
California
Colorado
Florida
Idaho
Illinois
Louisiana
Maine
Michigan
Nevada
New York
Ohio
Oregon
South Carolina
South Dakota
Texas

SEARCH & CONSENT PROCEDURES

Connecticut
Minnesota
Nebraska
North Dakota
Pennsylvania
Tennessee
Wisconsin

OPEN RECORDS

Alabama
Kansas

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[1] Upon demand of adopted adult, court decision may result in opening the records.

[2] A registry for pre-adoptive siblings only was established by law.

[3] The Department of Youth and Family Services operates a registry for its placements only.

[4] The Department of Human Resources operates a registry for its placements only.

[5] In King County, the court has allowed a "search group" to conduct searches and act as liaison between adopted persons and biological parents requesting contact through the court.

IV. Adoption Statistics

A. Introduction: National Committee For Adoption Survey

This section of the ADOPTION FACTBOOK describes the most recent State and national adoption data available. In 1984, the National Committee For Adoption conducted a national survey, and contacted State health, welfare, and vital statistics offices for 1982 data on the following types of adoptions:

- related adoptions (legal adoptions in which at least one of the adoptive parents or guardians is related to the child by blood or marriage to the child's biological parent)
- unrelated adoptions by public agencies (those child placing agencies that are supported by public funds and administered by public officials and their personnel)
- unrelated adoptions by private agencies (voluntary agencies which are supported by private funds as well as some public funds for certain programs under purchase of services agreements with public agencies)
- unrelated adoptions by private individuals (independent placements made without agency involvement that are sometimes referred to as "private" adoptions)
- unrelated adoptions of healthy infants (healthy infants under one year of age adopted by persons not related to the infant by blood or marriage)
- unrelated adoptions of children from other countries (adoptions by U.S. citizens of children from other countries, either adopted overseas and brought to the U.S., or brought to the U.S. and then adopted)
- unrelated adoptions of children with special needs (those children who may be difficult to place due to ethnic background, age, membership in a minority or a sibling group, or the presence of physical, emotional, or mental handicaps)
- adoptions of children by foster parents (children previously in foster care initially not free for adoption, who later become free for adoption and are adopted by their foster parents)

The questionnaire used in this survey is shown in Appendix D, where the methodology, data sources, and procedures used to adjust the data are also summarized. 1982 was the most recent base year for which it was feasible to collect these data because State adoption data are sometimes based on revised birth certificates, and there is a time lag for State data processing. Correspondingly, final U.S. and State natality statistics for 1982 used in table 4 did not become available until September 1984.

The National Committee For Adoption conducted its survey because of a desperate need for more current adoption data by policymakers, adoption agencies, social workers, attorneys, health professionals, researchers, biological parents, and potential adoptive parents. This data need had developed because the last Federal effort to collect national adoption data ceased with the

1975 data year. Our survey demonstrates that it is feasible to again collect these data, and we hope that this survey will soon be conducted annually by a major Federal agency with the resources to improve on our efforts. If so, the National Committee For Adoption will be a willing and supportive partner.

B. Overview of Adoptions in 1982

Table 1 indicates that, in 1982, there were 141,861 adoptions. California, New York, and Florida reported the largest number of adoptions; Delaware, Wyoming, and Vermont reported the fewest. Of these, 91,141 were related adoptions, and the remaining 50,720 were unrelated adoptions (19,428 of these were arranged by public agencies, 14,549 were arranged by private agencies, and 16,743 were arranged by private individuals--and these mutually exclusive categories total to 50,720). Of the 50,720 unrelated adoptions, 17,602 were unrelated adoptions of healthy infants, 5,707 were unrelated adoptions of children from other countries, 14,005 were unrelated adoptions of children with special needs, and 9,591 were adoptions of children by foster parents. These four categories are not necessarily mutually exclusive and do not total to 50,720 because some children may have been healthy infants from other countries or special needs children from other countries.

C. Percentages of Related and Unrelated Adoptions

Table 2 shows that nearly two-thirds (64.2 percent) of all adoptions are related adoptions. Related adoptions comprise a larger proportion of total adoptions in the South Atlantic and East South Central States (about 70 percent), and a smaller proportion in the Pacific States (about 55 percent); but in all Divisions and all except five States, related adoptions comprise the majority of adoptions.

D. Unrelated Adoptions by Public Agencies, Private Agencies, and Private Individuals

Table 3 shows that of 50,720 unrelated adoptions, 38.3 percent were arranged by public agencies, 28.7 percent were arranged by private agencies, and 33.0 percent were arranged by private individuals. The largest number of unrelated adoptions occurred in Texas (5,176), California (4,383), New York (3,370), and Illinois (3,242), which are large population centers. The smallest number occurred in Wyoming (83), Delaware (110), North Dakota (165), and Vermont (172), which are small population centers. There is considerable variation in the percentages of public agency, private agency, and private individual adoptions between States because of variation in State laws and longstanding adoption practices by established agencies.

E. Unrelated Adoptions of Healthy Infants

Table 4 focuses on the 17,602 unrelated adoptions of healthy infants (out of 141,861 total U.S. adoptions). Healthy infants comprise roughly one-third (34.7 percent) of the 50,720 unrelated adoptions, and may include some of the 5,707 unrelated adoptions of children from other countries. The remaining unrelated adoptions are comprised of special needs infants and older children. Unrelated adoptions of healthy infants represent less than one half of one percent (0.48 percent) of 1982 U.S. live births, and represent less than two and one-half percent (2.46 percent) of all births to unmarried women. In other words, of 3,680,537 U.S. live births in 1982 (which includes 715,227 births to unmarried women), only a small number, or 17,602 were healthy infants placed for adoption. NCFA believes that the estimate of 17,602 unrelated adoptions of healthy infants may be an undercount, and should be regarded as a minimum or conservative estimate. See Appendix D. 4. Survey Limitations and Undercounts for NCFA's discussion of this undercount.

F. Unrelated Adoptions of Children from Other Countries, of Children with Special Needs, and by Foster Parents

Table 5 shows the distribution of 50,720 unrelated adoptions in the United States by State in relation to foreign adoptions, special needs adoptions, and adoptions by foster parents. Unrelated adoptions of children from other countries (5,707 as shown in table 1) represent 11.3 percent of the 50,720 unrelated adoptions in the U.S. In some States, adoptions from other countries represent two percent or less of unrelated adoptions (West Virginia, North Carolina, Texas, and Nevada) whereas in others, 20 percent or more of unrelated adoptions are from other countries (Massachusetts, New Jersey, Minnesota, Iowa, Maryland, Washington, and Hawaii). Special needs adoptions (14,005 as shown in table 1) represent 27.6 percent of total unrelated adoptions. In some States, special needs adoptions comprise less than ten percent of unrelated adoptions (Maine, Indiana, Minnesota, Texas, Arizona, and Utah); in others, they comprise more than half (Maryland, Kentucky, Louisiana, Nevada, and Washington). Finally, unrelated adoptions of children by foster parents (9,591 as shown in table 1) represent 18.9 percent of unrelated adoptions, and there is considerable State-to-State variation.

G. State Trends in Adoption - 1972-1982

Table 6 shows numbers of related and unrelated adoptions by State for 1972 and 1982. The total number of U.S. adoptions declined by 4.6 percent from 148,700 in 1972 to 141,861 in 1982. Unrelated adoptions dropped from 65,335 in 1972 to 50,720 in 1982--a reduction of 22.4 percent. However, related adoptions increased by 9.3 percent, from 83,365 in 1972 to 91,141 in 1982. Significant State-by-State changes occurred between 1972 and 1982, but the majority of States reflect the general upward trend in related adoptions and the more pronounced downward trend in unrelated adoptions. The upward trend in related adoptions is probably associated with remarriage, and the stepparent formally adopting the biological child of the spouse. Of U.S. marriages in 1982, almost 35 percent were remarriages, which represents a significant increase from 1972, when only 25 percent of marriages involved at least one partner who was remarrying (National Center for Health Statistics: "Advance Report of Final Marriage Statistics, 1982" Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 34, No. 3, Supplement, June 28, 1985, table 6). The downward trend in related adoptions may be due to factors indentified in Section I. D., Social Trends Affecting the "Adoption Option".

H. National Trends in Adoption - 1951-1982

Table 7 summarizes U.S. data on total adoptions, unrelated adoptions, and related adoptions for the 1951 through 1982 period. Adoptions rose from 72,000 in 1951 to a peak of 175,000 in 1970, and then declined to 129,000 in 1975 (when Federal data collection of adoption statistics ceased). Apparently adoptions have increased between 1975 and 1982, because the National Committee For Adoption Survey estimates 141,861 adoptions in 1982. From 1951 to 1971, unrelated adoptions comprised about 50 percent of adoptions (+ or - 4 percent); a downturn has since occurred so that unrelated adoptions in 1982 comprise only 36 percent of total adoptions. Related adoptions, on the other hand, reflect a general rise, both in the overall number, and as a percent of total adoptions.

I. National Trends in Public Agency, Private Agency, and Independent Adoptions - 1951-1982

Table 8 shows the long term trend in public agency, private agency, and independent adoptions. In the 1950's, public agencies handled about 20 percent of unrelated adoptions; in the 1960's, they handled 25-30 percent, and in the 1970's and in 1982, nearly 40 percent. Private agencies handled about 30 percent of unrelated adoptions in the 1950's, about 40 percent in the 1960's, and dropped back to 29 percent by 1982. Independently arranged adoptions dropped steadily from about 53 percent of unrelated adoptions in 1951 to 21 percent in 1972, and have since increased to 33 percent of unrelated adoptions in 1982.

J. Countries of Origin for Foreign Adoptions - 1979 to1984

Table 9 shows the steady increase in foreign adoptions (immigrant orphans admitted to the U.S.), from 4,864 in 1979 to 8,327 in 1984. However, the relatively small number of adoptions from Europe declined (from 141 in 1979 to 79 in 1984), as did the number from Africa (from 19 in 1979 to 8 in 1984), whereas the number from Asia doubled (from 3,139 in 1979 to 6,251 in 1984). As the discussion in I. C. "Foreign Adoptions" pointed out, foreign adoptions in the mid-1970's fluctuated as follows: 1973 - 4,323; 1974 - 5,446; 1975 - 6,290; 1976 - 7,051; 1977 - 6,854; and 1978 - 5,652. Therefore, the count of 8,327 foreign adoptions in 1984 represents the highest number recorded by the Immigration and Naturalization Service since 1973.

K. Foreign Adoptions to U.S. States - 1982 to 1984

Table 10 shows the States to which the foreign adoptees went. In 1982, 664 of the 5,707 (or 11.6 percent) foreign adoptees went to New York; only four (or 0.1 percent) went to Nevada. In 1984, 8,306 foreign adoptees came to the U.S., and this represents a 45.5 percent increase in the 1982 to 1984 time period. Eighteen States registered increases of 100.0 percent or more, but only one State registered a small decrease.

L. Characteristics of Foreign Adoptees to the U.S. - Sex, Age, and Major Countries of Origin

Table 11 shows that of the 8,327 foreign adoptees coming to the U.S. in 1984, 59.4 percent were female, and 40.6 percent were male. About three-fifths (60.8 percent) were infants under one year of age. The majority of these children were from Korea--61.9 percent. The other countries of origin which rank highest in adoptions to the U.S. are Columbia, India, Philippines, El Salvador, Mexico, Chile, Honduras, Brazil, and Guatemala. These ten countries contribute over 92.3 percent of adoptions to the U.S.--all other countries combined contribute only 7.7 percent of all foreign adoptions.

M. Better Federal and State Data on Adoption Needed

Throughout the 1950's, 1960's and early 1970's, the Federal government collected annual statistics on all types of adoptions from the States. Since 1975, national statistical data about adoption has been severely limited. NCFA has repeatedly testified before Congress on the need for better adoption data, and Congress recognized the need to have an adequate information base upon which to formulate policy. In response to Congressional intent, in FY 1984, the Assistant Secretary for Human Development Services approved the formation of the Adoption Information Improvement Workgroup (AIIW). The importance of an adequate information base on adoption was also emphasized by the Child Abuse Amendments of 1984. Thus, the major task of the Workgroup was to examine the strengths and weaknesses of available statistical information about adoption, identify the information gaps and make recommendations to the Assistant Secretary for ways to fill those gaps.

The AIIW Workgroup was formed in October, 1984, and attempted to take into account information needs at all levels--Federal, State, and local; public and private--in an informal fashion, and the extent to which available information meets those needs. The Workgroup arrived at a consensus about strategic information gaps, and made seven major recommendations in April 1985. NCFA is devoting FACTBOOK space to these recommendations not only because we fully concur with them, but also because, unless we publicize them, their impact could be buried amid the other mounds of Federal paperwork.

The following Adoption Information Improvement Workgroup recommendations and statements of policy relevance are given verbatim.

AIIW Recommendation # 1. To implement a nationwide adoption information system accounting for all types of adoptions on an annual basis.

> Policy relevance: Knowledge of adoption trends is essential in assessing the impact of Federal policy on the number, characteristics and types of adoptions.

AIIW Recommendation #2. To conduct a study of adoption service providers to determine the number and types of children in need of adoption, the number and types of families actively seeking to adopt and the adoption process.

> Policy relevance: Information on the number and types of children in need of adoption, number of families actively seeking to adopt, and the adoption process is critical in guiding Federal policies which encourage adoption as an alternative to abortion and encourage the adoption of children from the foster care system for whom returning home is not possible.

AIIW Recommendation # 3. To encourage and support the addition of items to national surveys conducted by the Federal government which would provide information about adopted children, adoptive families, birth parents, and potential adoptive parents to describe their current status and past history.

> Policy relevance: These data will provide information on the consequences of the Federal policy which encourages adoption.

AIIW Recommendation # 4. To support studies of small samples of young unmarried pregnant women and the biological fathers to determine the decision making process of the woman to keep her child or make an adoption plan.

Policy relevance: In order to appropriately structure programs to make adoption an alternative for unmarried pregnant women and teen fathers, it is important to understand the decision-making process.

AIIW Recommendation # 5. To examine the post-legal adoption use of and demand for services by birth parents, adopted children, and adoptive families provided by the public or private agency which placed the child or other service providers.

Policy relevance: The post-legal adoption use of agency and other services requires government resources. The Federal government needs to know what those service demands are in order to adequately meet them or encourage the private sector to provide the services.

AIIW Recommendation # 6. To encourage the conduct of small scale research studies which examine the psychological, emotional and social consequences of adoption for children as compared to children who remain with birth parents or a single parent, children who reside in step-families, children in long-term foster care, and children in other family structures.

Policy relevance: As the Federal government encourages adoption, it is important to know the long-term psychological, emotional and social consequences of adoption for children.

AIIW Recommendation # 7: To commission, publish and distribute a review of the adoption research findings which would include a discussion of their implications for adoption policy and practice.

Policy relevance: Research findings should inform the development of Federal policy as well as State policy and adoption practice.

NCFA encourages the implementation of these data recommendations because of their significant policy relevance. For a full copy of this report, and to endorse its implementation, contact: Dodie Livingston, Commissioner, Office of Human Development Services, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Washington, D.C. 20201.

Table 1. Total related and unrelated adoptions: United States, 1982 National Committee For Adoption--Continued

Geographic division and State	(a) Total adoptions	(b) Total related adoptions	(c) Total unrelated adoptions by public agencies	(d) Total unrelated adoptions by private agencies	(e) Total unrelated adoptions by private individuals	(f) Total unrelated adoptions of healthy infants	(g) Total unrelated adoptions of children from other countries	(h) Total unrelated adoptions of children with special needs	(i) Total adoptions of children by foster parents
United States..........	141,861	91,141	19,428	14,549	16,743	17,602	5,707	14,005	9,591
New England..............	6,075	3,977	1,093	723	282	843	409	660	642
Maine........................	1,011	740	79	75	117	77	31	25	46
New Hampshire................	607	409	75	59	64	69	28	55	37
Vermont......................	328	156	35	53	84	172	8	28	28
Massachusetts................	2,558	1,763	539	256	0	172	260	333	297
Rhode Island.................	470	250	123	80	17	100	9	86	86
Connecticut..................	1,101	659	242	200	0	253	73	133	148
Middle Atlantic..........	19,310	11,536	4,238	1,386	2,150	2,432	1,292	2,182	2,074
New York.....................	9,000	5,630	1,670	817	883	1,176	664	1,181	1,163
New Jersey...................	5,098	3,430	581	209	878	301	333	246	394
Pennsylvania.................	5,212	2,476	1,987	360	389	955	295	755	517
East North Central.......	27,028	18,017	3,513	3,095	2,403	2,798	770	2,089	1,572
Ohio.........................	7,376	5,597	958	483	338	621	130	491	336
Indiana......................	4,783	3,842	315	335	291	70	62	60	81
Illinois.....................	6,553	3,311	933	1,110	1,199	1,320	85	648	613
Michigan.....................	5,562	3,662	793	532	575	377	359	571	417
Wisconsin....................	2,754	1,605	514	635	0	410	134	319	125
West North Central.......	12,653	7,800	1,551	2,243	1,059	2,408	1,028	1,027	586
Minnesota....................	2,905	1,448	456	987	14	935	604	133	125
Iowa.........................	1,787	1,154	168	213	252	387	185	175	94
Missouri.....................	3,084	2,083	372	302	327	349	127	276	189
North Dakota.................	535	370	43	86	36	125	17	68	31
South Dakota.................	526	263	82	141	40	128	6	30	50
Nebraska.....................	1,318	802	120	270	126	84	38	135	70
Kansas.......................	2,498	1,680	310	244	264	400	51	210	27
South Atlantic...........	24,583	17,531	3,157	1,648	2,247	3,143	513	2,800	1,196
Delaware.....................	249	139	66	44	0	36	11	38	26
Maryland.....................	1,529	811	339	127	252	352	221	692	136
District of Columbia.........	717	535	20	78	84	92	11	53	34
Virginia.....................	3,037	2,140	541	190	166	897	95	248	170
West Virginia................	1,932	1,374	143	199	216	278	10	154	105
North Carolina...............	3,547	2,523	576	249	199	357	17	283	194
South Carolina...............	1,863	1,242	373	12	236	104	22	220	134
Georgia......................	3,344	2,302	387	108	547	364	31	288	197
Florida......................	8,365	6,465	712	641	547	663	95	824	200
East South Central.......	8,485	5,923	1,171	556	835	755	93	826	477
Kentucky.....................	1,270	775	282	76	137	388	13	350	126
Tennessee....................	2,777	1,844	456	195	282	163	46	244	159
Alabama......................	2,744	2,058	260	205	221	134	22	121	52
Mississippi..................	1,694	1,246	173	80	195	70	12	111	140

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	(a) Total adoptions	(b) Total related adoptions	(c) Total unrelated adoptions by public agencies	(d) Total unrelated adoptions by private agencies	(e) Total unrelated adoptions by private individuals	(f) Total unrelated adoptions of healthy infants	(g) Total unrelated adoptions of children from other countries	(h) Total unrelated adoptions of children with special needs	(i) Total adoptions of children by foster parents
West South Central	18,972	11,667	1,685	1,871	3,749	2,149	186	1,280	1,273
Arkansas	1,495	959	247	139	150	93	15	140	47
Louisiana	2,506	1,718	263	214	311	275	36	440	233
Oklahoma	2,795	1,990	355	138	312	281	55	200	15
Texas	12,176	7,000	820	1,380	2,976	1,500	80	500	978
Mountain	9,561	6,266	1,282	887	1,126	1,143	336	619	517
Montana	714	431	114	70	99	99	11	78	53
Idaho	573	235	100	77	161	224	33	47	16
Wyoming	252	169	11	45	27	61	4	23	16
Colorado	2,830	1,928	300	300	302	315	141	250	170
New Mexico	2,312	1,940	92	110	170	130	15	83	34
Arizona	1,027	568	288	82	89	48	19	12	62
Utah	1,222	567	246	194	215	185	109	23	124
Nevada	631	428	131	9	63	81	4	103	42
Pacific	15,194	8,424	1,738	2,140	2,892	1,931	1,080	2,522	1,254
Washington	2,356	1,283	243	517	313	520	297	618	203
Oregon	1,042	135	270	370	267	652	174	250	171
California	10,500	6,117	1,121	1,071	2,191	450	429	1,541	828
Alaska	693	466	86	68	73	97	34	63	43
Hawaii	603	423	18	114	48	212	146	50	9

See Appendix D. "Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by The National Committee For Adoption" for notes on sources of data, methodologies of data collection, treatment of missing data, and strengths and limitations of the data.

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Table 2. Number and percentage distribution of related and unrelated adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Total adoptions		Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions		
	Number	Percent		Total unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private individuals
United States..........	141,861	100.0	64.2	13.7	10.3	11.8
New England..............	6,075	100.0	65.5	18.0	11.9	4.6
Maine........................	1,011	100.0	73.2	7.8	7.4	11.6
New Hampshire................	607	100.0	67.4	12.4	9.7	10.5
Vermont......................	328	100.0	47.6	10.7	16.2	25.6
Massachusetts................	2,558	100.0	68.9	21.1	10.0	0.0
Rhode Island.................	470	100.0	53.2	26.2	17.0	3.6
Connecticut..................	1,101	100.0	59.9	22.0	18.2	0.0
Middle Atlantic..........	19,310	100.0	59.7	21.9	7.2	11.1
New York.....................	9,000	100.0	62.6	18.6	9.1	9.8
New Jersey...................	5,098	100.0	67.3	11.4	4.1	17.2
Pennsylvania.................	5,212	100.0	47.5	38.1	6.9	7.5
East North Central.......	27,028	100.0	66.7	13.0	11.5	8.9
Ohio.........................	7,376	100.0	75.9	13.0	6.5	4.6
Indiana......................	4,78[illegible]	100.0	80.3	6.6	7.0	6.1
Illinois.....................	6,553	100.0	50.5	14.2	16.9	18.3
Michigan.....................	5,562	100.0	65.8	14.3	9.6	10.3
Wisconsin....................	2,754	100.0	58.3	18.7	23.1	0.0
West North Central.......	12,653	100.0	61.6	12.3	17.7	8.4
Minnesota....................	2,905	100.0	49.8	15.7	34.0	0.5
Iowa.........................	1,787	100.0	64.6	9.4	11.9	14.1
Missouri.....................	3,084	100.0	67.5	12.1	9.8	10.6
North Dakota.................	535	100.0	69.2	8.0	16.1	6.7
South Dakota.................	526	100.0	50.0	15.6	26.8	7.6
Nebraska.....................	1,318	100.0	60.8	9.1	20.5	9.6
Kansas.......................	2,498	100.0	67.3	12.4	9.8	10.6
South Atlantic...........	24,583	100.0	71.3	12.8	6.7	9.1
Delaware.....................	249	100.0	55.8	26.5	17.7	0.0
Maryland.....................	1,529	100.0	53.0	22.2	8.3	16.5
District of Columbia.........	717	100.0	74.6	2.8	10.9	11.7
Virginia.....................	3,037	100.0	70.5	17.8	6.3	5.5
West Virginia................	1,932	100.0	71.1	7.4	10.3	11.2
North Carolina...............	3,547	100.0	71.1	16.2	7.0	5.6
South Carolina...............	1,863	100.0	66.7	20.0	0.6	12.7
Georgia......................	3,344	100.0	68.8	11.6	3.2	16.4
Florida......................	8,365	100.0	77.3	8.5	7.7	6.5
East South Central.......	8,485	100.0	69.8	13.8	6.6	9.8
Kentucky.....................	1,270	100.0	61.0	22.2	6.0	10.8
Tennessee....................	2,777	100.0	66.4	16.4	7.0	10.2
Alabama......................	2,744	100.0	75.0	9.5	7.5	8.1
Mississippi..................	1,694	100.0	73.6	10.2	4.7	11.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	Total adoptions		Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions		
	Number	Percent		Total unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private individuals
West South Central.......	18,972	100.0	61.5	8.9	9.9	19.8
Arkansas....................	1,495	100.0	64.1	16.5	9.3	10.0
Louisiana....................	2,506	100.0	68.6	10.5	8.5	12.4
Oklahoma....................	2,795	100.0	71.2	12.7	4.9	11.2
Texas........................	12,176	100.0	57.5	6.7	11.3	24.4
Mountain.................	9,561	100.0	65.5	13.4	9.3	11.8
Montana......................	714	100.0	60.4	16.0	9.8	13.9
Idaho........................	573	100.0	41.0	17.5	13.4	28.1
Wyoming......................	252	100.0	67.1	4.4	17.9	10.7
Colorado.....................	2,830	100.0	68.1	10.6	10.6	10.7
New Mexico...................	2,312	100.0	83.9	4.0	4.8	7.4
Arizona......................	1,027	100.0	55.3	28.0	8.0	8.7
Utah.........................	1,222	100.0	46.4	20.1	15.9	17.6
Nevada.......................	631	100.0	67.8	20.8	1.4	10.0
Pacific..................	15,194	100.0	55.4	11.4	14.1	19.0
Washington...................	2,356	100.0	54.5	10.3	21.9	13.3
Oregon.......................	1,042	100.0	13.0	25.9	35.5	25.6
California...................	10,500	100.0	58.3	10.7	10.2	20.9
Alaska.......................	693	100.0	67.2	12.4	9.8	10.5
Hawaii.......................	603	100.0	70.1	3.0	18.9	8.0

See Appendix D. "Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by The National Committee For Adoption" for notes on sources of data, methodologies of data collection, treatment of missing data, and strengths and limitations of the data.

Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 3. Number and percentage distribution of types of unrelated adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Total unrelated adoptions		Unrelated adoptions		
	Number	Percent	Total unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private individuals
United States..........	50,720	100.0	38.3	28.7	33.0
New England..............	2,098	100.0	52.1	34.5	13.4
Maine........................	271	100.0	29.2	27.7	43.2
New Hampshire................	198	100.0	37.9	29.8	32.3
Vermont......................	172	100.0	20.3	30.8	48.8
Massachusetts................	795	100.0	67.8	32.2	0.0
Rhode Island.................	220	100.0	55.9	36.4	7.7
Connecticut..................	442	100.0	54.8	45.2	0.0
Middle Atlantic..........	7,774	100.0	54.5	17.8	27.7
New York.....................	3,370	100.0	49.6	24.2	26.2
New Jersey...................	1,668	100.0	34.8	12.5	52.6
Pennsylvania.................	2,736	100.0	72.6	13.2	14.2
East North Central.......	9,011	100.0	39.0	34.3	26.7
Ohio.........................	1,779	100.0	53.9	27.2	19.0
Indiana......................	941	100.0	33.5	35.6	30.9
Illinois.....................	3,242	100.0	28.8	34.2	37.0
Michigan.....................	1,900	100.0	41.7	28.0	30.3
Wisconsin....................	1,149	100.0	44.7	55.3	0.0
West North Central.......	4,853	100.0	32.0	46.2	21.8
Minnesota....................	1,457	100.0	31.3	67.7	1.0
Iowa.........................	633	100.0	26.5	33.6	39.8
Missouri.....................	1,001	100.0	37.2	30.2	32.7
North Dakota.................	165	100.0	26.1	52.1	21.8
South Dakota.................	263	100.0	31.2	53.6	15.2
Nebraska.....................	516	100.0	23.3	52.3	24.4
Kansas.......................	818	100.0	37.9	29.8	32.3
South Atlantic...........	7,052	100.0	44.8	23.4	31.9
Delaware.....................	110	100.0	60.0	40.0	0.0
Maryland.....................	718	100.0	47.2	17.7	35.1
District of Columbia.........	182	100.0	11.0	42.9	46.2
Virginia.....................	897	100.0	60.3	21.2	18.5
West Virginia................	558	100.0	25.6	35.7	38.7
North Carolina...............	1,024	100.0	56.3	24.3	19.4
South Carolina...............	621	100.0	60.1	1.9	38.0
Georgia......................	1,042	100.0	37.1	10.4	52.5
Florida......................	1,900	100.0	37.5	33.7	28.8
East South Central.......	2,562	100.0	45.7	21.7	32.6
Kentucky.....................	495	100.0	57.0	15.4	27.7
Tennessee....................	933	100.0	48.9	20.9	30.2
Alabama......................	686	100.0	37.9	29.9	32.2
Mississippi..................	448	100.0	38.6	17.9	43.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	Total unrelated adoptions		Unrelated adoptions		
	Number	Percent	Total unrelated adoptions by public agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private agencies	Total unrelated adoptions by private individuals
West South Central.......	7,305	100.0	23.1	25.6	51.3
Arkansas.....................	536	100.0	46.1	25.9	28.0
Louisiana....................	788	100.0	33.4	27.2	39.5
Oklahoma.....................	805	100.0	44.1	17.1	38.8
Texas........................	5,176	100.0	15.8	26.7	57.5
Mountain.................	3,295	100.0	38.9	26.9	34.2
Montana......................	283	100.0	40.3	24.7	35.0
Idaho........................	338	100.0	29.6	22.8	47.6
Wyoming......................	83	100.0	13.3	54.2	32.5
Colorado.....................	902	100.0	33.3	33.3	33.5
New Mexico...................	372	100.0	24.7	29.6	45.7
Arizona......................	459	100.0	62.7	17.9	19.4
Utah.........................	655	100.0	37.6	29.6	32.8
Nevada.......................	203	100.0	64.5	4.4	31.0
Pacific..................	6,770	100.0	25.7	31.6	42.7
Washington...................	1,073	100.0	22.6	48.2	29.2
Oregon.......................	907	100.0	29.8	40.8	29.4
California...................	4,383	100.0	25.6	24.4	50.0
Alaska.......................	227	100.0	37.9	30.0	32.2
Hawaii.......................	180	100.0	10.0	63.3	26.7

See Appendix D. "Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by The National Committee For Adoption" for notes on sources of data, methodologies of data collection, treatment of missing data, and strengths and limitations of the data.

Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 4. Number of unrelated adoptions of healthy infants and as a percentage of unrelated adoptions, 1982 live births, and 1982 births to unmarried women for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Total unrelated adoptions of healthy infants...	...as a percentage of unrelated adoptions	...as a percentage of 1982 live births[a]	...as a percentage of 1982 births to unmarried women[a]
United States..........	17,602	34.7	0.48	2.46
New England.............	843	40.2	0.50	3.03
Maine......................	77	28.4	0.46	3.13
New Hampshire..............	69	34.8	0.49	3.98
Vermont....................	172	100.0	2.14	14.53
Massachusetts..............	172	21.6	0.23	1.37
Rhode Island...............	100	45.5	0.80	4.98
Connecticut................	253	57.2	0.63	3.21
Middle Atlantic..........	2,432	31.3	0.48	2.10
New York...................	1,176	34.9	0.48	1.86
New Jersey.................	301	18.0	0.31	1.40
Pennsylvania...............	955	34.9	0.59	3.06
East North Central.......	2,798	31.1	0.43	2.30
Ohio.......................	621	34.9	0.38	2.00
Indiana....................	70	7.4	0.08	0.49
Illinois...................	1,320	40.7	0.72	3.09
Michigan...................	377	19.8	0.27	1.68
Wisconsin..................	410	35.7	0.55	3.66
West North Central.......	2,408	49.6	0.85	6.04
Minnesota..................	935	64.2	1.37	11.10
Iowa.......................	387	61.1	0.87	7.63
Missouri...................	349	34.9	0.45	2.42
North Dakota...............	125	75.8	0.99	9.48
South Dakota...............	128	48.7	1.00	6.65
Nebraska...................	84	16.3	0.31	2.45
Kansas.....................	400	48.9	0.98	7.58
South Atlantic...........	3,143	44.6	0.56	2.36
Delaware...................	36	32.7	0.39	1.63
Maryland...................	352	49.0	0.55	2.04
District of Columbia.........	92	50.5	0.99	1.84
Virginia...................	897	100.0	1.11	5.61
West Virginia..............	278	49.8	1.02	7.13
North Carolina.............	357	34.9	0.42	2.05
South Carolina.............	104	16.7	0.20	0.83
Georgia....................	364	34.9	0.40	1.56
Florida....................	663	34.9	0.46	1.87
East South Central.......	755	29.5	0.33	1.49
Kentucky...................	388	78.4	0.68	4.32
Tennessee..................	163	17.5	0.24	1.16
Alabama....................	134	19.5	0.22	0.96
Mississippi................	70	15.6	0.15	0.51

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	Total unrelated adoptions of healthy infants...	...as a percentage of unrelated adoptions	...as a percentage of 1982 live births[a]	...as a percentage of 1982 births to unmarried women[a]
West South Central.......	2,149	29.4	0.45	2.78
Arkansas.....................	93	17.4	0.26	1.26
Louisiana....................	275	34.9	0.33	1.36
Oklahoma.....................	281	34.9	0.48	3.43
Texas........................	1,500	29.0	0.50	3.62
Mountain.................	1,143	34.7	0.48	3.33
Montana......................	99	35.0	0.68	4.78
Idaho........................	224	66.3	1.14	12.98
Wyoming......................	61	73.5	0.55	6.01
Colorado.....................	315	34.9	0.57	4.05
New Mexico...................	130	34.9	0.47	2.12
Arizona......................	48	10.5	0.09	0.45
Utah.........................	185	28.2	0.45	6.37
Nevada.......................	81	39.9	0.56	3.96
Pacific..................	1,931	28.5	0.34	1.68
Washington...................	520	48.5	0.75	5.20
Oregon.......................	652	71.9	1.59	10.02
California...................	450	10.3	0.10	0.48
Alaska.......................	97	42.7	0.86	5.14
Hawaii.......................	212	117.8	1.13	6.12

See Appendix D. "Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by The National Committee For Adoption" for notes on sources of data, methodologies of data collection, treatment of missing data, and strengths and limitations of the data.

[a] Natality data on live births and births to unmarried women obtained from National Center for Health Statistics: "Advance Report of Final Natality Statistics, 1982" Monthly Vital Statistics Report. Vol. 33, No. 6, Supplement, Sept. 28, 1984.

Table 5. Unrelated adoptions of children from other countries, unrelated adoptions of children with special needs, and unrelated adoptions of children by foster parents as a percentage of unrelated adoptions for each State, Division, and the United States: 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey

Geographic division and State	Unrelated adoptions	Unrelated adoptions of children from other countries as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions	Unrelated adoptions of children with special needs as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions	Unrelated adoptions of children by foster parents as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions
United States..........	50,720	11.3	27.6	18.9
New England..............	2,098	19.5	31.5	30.6
Maine........................	271	11.4	9.2	17.0
New Hampshire................	198	14.1	27.8	18.7
Vermont......................	172	4.7	16.3	16.3
Massachusetts................	795	32.7	41.9	37.4
Rhode Island.................	220	4.1	39.1	39.1
Connecticut..................	442	16.5	30.1	33.5
Middle Atlantic..........	7,774	16.6	28.1	26.7
New York.....................	3,370	19.7	35.0	34.5
New Jersey...................	1,668	20.0	14.7	23.6
Pennsylvania.................	2,736	10.8	27.6	18.9
East North Central.......	9,011	8.5	23.2	17.4
Ohio.........................	1,779	7.3	27.6	18.9
Indiana......................	941	6.6	6.4	8.6
Illinois.....................	3,242	2.6	20.0	18.9
Michigan.....................	1,900	18.9	30.1	21.9
Wisconsin....................	1,149	11.7	27.8	10.9
West North Central.......	4,853	21.2	21.2	12.1
Minnesota....................	1,457	41.5	9.1	8.6
Iowa.........................	633	29.2	27.6	14.8
Missouri.....................	1,001	12.7	27.6	18.9
North Dakota.................	165	10.3	41.2	18.8
South Dakota.................	263	2.3	11.4	19.0
Nebraska.....................	516	7.4	26.2	13.6
Kansas.......................	818	6.2	25.7	3.3
South Atlantic...........	7,052	7.3	39.7	17.0
Delaware.....................	110	10.0	34.5	23.6
Maryland.....................	718	30.8	96.4	18.9
District of Columbia.........	182	6.0	29.1	18.7
Virginia.....................	897	10.6	27.6	19.0
West Virginia................	558	1.8	27.6	18.8
North Carolina...............	1,024	1.7	27.6	18.9
South Carolina...............	621	3.5	35.4	21.6
Georgia......................	1,042	3.0	27.6	18.9
Florida......................	1,900	5.0	43.4	10.5
East South Central.......	2,562	3.6	32.2	18.6
Kentucky.....................	495	2.6	70.7	25.5
Tennessee....................	933	4.9	26.2	17.0
Alabama......................	686	3.2	17.6	7.6
Mississippi..................	448	2.7	24.8	31.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	Unrelated adoptions	Unrelated adoptions of children from other countries as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions	Unrelated adoptions of children with special needs as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions	Unrelated adoptions of children by foster parents as a percentage of total unrelated adoptions
West South Central	7,305	2.5	17.5	17.4
Arkansas	536	2.8	26.1	8.8
Louisiana	788	4.6	55.8	29.6
Oklahoma	805	6.8	24.8	1.9
Texas	5,176	1.5	9.7	18.9
Mountain	3,295	10.2	18.8	15.7
Montana	283	3.9	27.6	18.7
Idaho	338	9.8	13.9	4.7
Wyoming	83	4.8	27.7	19.3
Colorado	902	15.6	27.7	18.8
New Mexico	372	4.0	22.3	9.1
Arizona	459	4.1	2.6	13.5
Utah	655	16.6	3.5	18.9
Nevada	203	2.0	50.7	20.7
Pacific	6,770	16.0	37.3	18.5
Washington	1,073	27.7	57.6	18.9
Oregon	907	19.2	27.6	18.9
California	4,383	9.8	35.2	18.9
Alaska	227	15.0	27.8	18.9
Hawaii	180	81.1	27.8	5.0

See Appendix D. "Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by The National Committee For Adoption" for notes on sources of data, methodologies of data collection, treatment of missing data, and strengths and limitations of the data.

Table 6. Percentage change in total related and unrelated adoptions by State and Division: United States, 1972 and 1982

Geographic division and State	1972			1982			Percent increase + (or decrease -), 1972 to 1982		
	Total adoptions	Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions	Total adoptions	Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions	Total adoptions	Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions
United States..........	148,700	83,365	65,335	141,861	91,141	50,720	-4.6	+9.3	-22.4
New England..............	5,777	2,544	3,233	6,075	3,977	2,098	+5.2	+56.3	-35.1
Maine..........................	1,064	698	366	1,011	740	271	-5.0	+6.0	-26.0
New Hampshire................	662	407	255	607	409	198	-8.3	+0.5	-22.4
Vermont.......................	502	293	209	328	156	172	-34.7	-46.8	-17.7
Massachusetts................	1,719	228	1,491	2,558	1,763	795	+48.8	+673.2	-46.7
Rhode Island.................	706	464	242	470	250	220	-33.4	-46.2	-9.1
Connecticut..................	1,124	454	670	1,101	659	442	-2.0	+45.2	-34.0
Middle Atlantic...........	20,495	10,048	10,447	19,310	11,536	7,774	-5.8	+14.8	-25.6
New York......................	10,073	4,479	5,594	9,000	5,630	3,370	-10.7	+25.7	-39.8
New Jersey....................	3,455	1,551	1,904	5,098	3,430	1,668	+47.6	+121.1	-12.4
Pennsylvania..................	6,967	4,018	2,949	5,212	2,476	2,736	-25.2	-38.4	-7.2
East North Central.......	32,738	17,317	15,421	27,028	18,017	9,011	-17.4	+4.0	-41.6
Ohio..........................	8,511	4,945	3,566	7,376	5,597	1,779	-13.3	+13.2	-50.1
Indiana.......................	5,033	3,140	1,893	4,783	3,842	941	-5.0	+22.4	-50.3
Illinois......................	8,125	3,636	4,489	6,553	3,311	3,242	-19.3	-8.9	-27.8
Michigan......................	7,644	4,261	3,383	5,562	3,662	1,900	-27.2	-14.1	-43.8
Wisconsin.....................	3,425	1,335	2,090	2,754	1,605	1,149	-19.6	+20.2	-45.0
West North Central.......	12,744	6,706	6,038	12,653	7,800	4,853	-0.7	+16.3	-19.6
Minnesota.....................	3,297	1,434	1,863	2,905	1,448	1,457	-11.9	+1.0	-21.8
Iowa..........................	2,806	1,637	1,169	1,787	1,154	633	-36.3	-29.5	-45.9
Missouri......................	1,392	879	513	3,084	2,083	1,001	+121.6	+137.0	+95.1
North Dakota..................	581	292	289	535	370	165	-7.9	+26.7	-42.9
South Dakota..................	593	299	294	526	263	263	-11.3	-12.0	-10.5
Nebraska......................	1,908	973	935	1,318	802	516	-30.9	-17.6	-44.8
Kansas........................	2,167	1,192	975	2,498	1,680	818	+15.3	+40.9	-16.1
South Atlantic...........	23,165	14,631	8,534	24,583	17,531	7,052	+6.1	+19.8	-17.4
Delaware......................	254	150	104	249	139	110	-2.0	-7.3	+5.8
Maryland......................	2,375	1,474	901	1,529	811	718	-35.6	-45.0	-20.3
District of Columbia.........	747	239	508	717	535	182	-4.0	+123.8	-64.2
Virginia......................	3,793	2,140	1,653	3,037	2,140	897	-19.9	0.0	-45.7
West Virginia................	1,537	1,203	334	1,932	1,374	558	+25.7	+14.2	+67.1
North Carolina...............	2,783	1,780	1,003	3,547	2,523	1,024	+27.5	+41.7	+2.1
South Carolina...............	1,911	1,179	732	1,863	1,242	621	-2.5	+5.3	-15.2
Georgia.......................	2,591	1,569	1,022	3,344	2,302	1,042	+29.1	+46.7	+2.0
Florida.......................	7,174	4,897	2,277	8,365	6,465	1,900	+16.6	+32.0	-16.6
East South Central.......	6,752	3,925	2,827	8,485	5,923	2,562	+25.7	+50.9	-9.4
Kentucky......................	1,439	790	649	1,270	775	495	-11.7	-1.9	-23.7
Tennessee.....................	1,513	752	761	2,777	1,844	933	+83.5	+145.2	+22.6
Alabama.......................	2,313	1,625	688	2,744	2,058	686	+18.6	+26.6	-0.3
Mississippi...................	1,487	758	729	1,694	1,246	448	+13.9	+64.4	-38.5

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	1972			1982			Percent increase + (or decrease -), 1972 to 1982		
	Total adoptions	Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions	Total adoptions	Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions	Total adoptions	Related adoptions	Unrelated adoptions
West South Central.......	15,834	9,894	5,940	18,972	11,667	7,305	+19.8	+17.9	+23.0
Arkansas.....................	920	635	285	1,495	959	536	+62.5	+51.0	+88.1
Louisiana....................	2,801	1,826	975	2,506	1,718	788	-10.5	-5.9	-19.2
Oklahoma.....................	798	123	675	2,795	1,990	805	+250.3	+1,517.9	+19.3
Texas........................	11,315	7,310	4,005	12,176	7,000	5,176	+7.6	-4.2	+29.2
Mountain.................	8,677	5,287	3,390	9,561	6,266	3,295	+10.2	+18.5	-2.8
Montana......................	1,032	634	398	714	431	283	-30.8	-32.0	-28.9
Idaho........................	797	484	313	573	235	338	-28.1	-51.4	+8.0
Wyoming......................	456	298	158	252	169	83	-44.7	-43.3	-47.5
Colorado.....................	1,747	940	807	2,830	1,928	902	+62.0	+105.1	+11.8
New Mexico...................	1,230	713	517	2,312	1,940	372	+88.0	+172.1	-28.0
Arizona......................	2,259	1,547	712	1,027	568	459	-54.5	-63.3	-35.5
Utah.........................	304	24	280	1,222	567	655	+302.0	+2,262.5	+133.9
Nevada.......................	852	647	205	631	428	203	-25.9	-33.8	-1.0
Pacific..................	22,518	13,013	9,505	15,194	8,424	6,770	-32.5	-35.3	-28.8
Washington...................	4,522	1,959	2,563	2,356	1,283	1,073	-47.9	-34.5	-58.1
Oregon.......................	2,711	1,714	997	1,042	135	907	-61.6	-92.1	-9.0
California...................	13,868	8,442	5,426	10,500	6,117	4,383	-24.3	-27.5	-19.2
Alaska.......................	684	325	359	693	466	227	+1.3	+43.4	-36.8
Hawaii.......................	733	573	160	603	423	180	-17.7	-26.2	+12.5

SOURCES: 1982 data from 1982 National Committee For Adoption Survey (see Appendix D). Numbers of related and unrelated adoptions in 1972 for all States except Nebraska, Mississippi, Idaho, and Colorado were extracted from tables 2 and 3 of M. Hoeppner ("Where Have All The Children Gone? The Adoption Market Today" Rand Publication P-5990, Santa Monica, CA 90406, Sept. 1977). 1972 adoptions for Nebraska and Mississippi were estimated by the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) by using total reported Nebraska adoptions for 1971, and apportioning to related and unrelated based on the estimated U.S. distribution based on reports from 42 State departments of public welfare, as described in the "Adoptions in 1971" report by the National Center for Social Statistics (1973). Data for Idaho and Colorado were not reported in any of the years between 1969 and 1975. Idaho adoptions for 1972 were estimated by NCFA by averaging the number of adoptions reported by the six States in Hoeppner (1977) which most closely corresponded to Idaho in terms of number of 1972 live births + or - 3,000 births (South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, New Hampshire, Maine, and Hawaii). Colorado adoptions for 1972 were estimated by NCFA by averaging the number of adoptions reported in Hoeppner (1977) by four States which most closely corresponded to Colorado in terms of number of 1972 live births + or - 3,000 births (Oklahoma, Iowa, Connecticut, and Arizona).

Table 7. National estimates of relationship of the petitioner to the adopted child: United States, 1951 to 1982

Year	Total adoptions	Unrelated petitioners	Related petitioners	Percentage unrelated petitioners	Percentage related petitioners
1951	72,000*	33,800*	38,200*	47%	53%
1955	93,000	48,400*	44,600*	52%	48%
1957	91,000	48,200	42,800	53%	47%
1958	96,000	50,900	45,100	50%	50%
1959	102,000	54,100	47,900	53%	47%
1960	107,000	57,800	49,200	54%	46%
1961	114,000	61,600	52,400	54%	46%
1962	121,000	62,900	58,100	52%	48%
1963	127,000	67,300	59,700	53%	47%
1964	135,000	71,600	63,400	53%	47%
1965	142,000	76,700	65,300	54%	46%
1966	152,000	80,600	71,400	53%	47%
1967	158,000	83,700	74,300	53%	47%
1968	166,000	86,300	79,700	52%	48%
1969	171,000	88,900	82,100	52%	48%
1970	175,000	89,200	85,800	51%	49%
1971	169,000	82,800	86,200	49%	50%
1972	148,701	65,335	83,366	44%	56%
1973	148,000*	59,200*	88,800*	40%	60%
1974	138,000*	49,700*	88,300*	36%	64%
1975	129,000*	47,700*	81,300*	37%	63%
1982	141,661	50,720	91,141	36%	64%

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*Indicates estimates recently developed by Penelope Maza ("Adoption Trends: 1944-1975", Child Welfare Research Notes #9, August 1984, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Washington, D.C.). All other 1955-1971 and 1973-1975 estimates are as originally published, with appropriate references cited by Maza (1984). 1972 data were adapted from Hoeppner (1977) by the National Committee For Adoption, as specified in the footnote in table 6. 1982 data were collected by the National Committee For Adoption (see Appendix D).

Table 8. National estimates of adoptions by unrelated petitioners and type of agency making adoptive placement: United States, 1951 to 1982

Year	Total unrelated adoptions	Public agency	Private agency	Independent	Percentage public agency	Percentage private agency	Percentage independent
1951..................	33,800*	6,100*	9,800*	17,900*	18	29	53
1955..................	48,400*	9,700*	14,000*	24,700*	20	29	51
1957..................	48,200	10,600*	14,500*	23,100*	22	30	48
1958..................	50,900	10,200*	16,800*	23,900*	20	33	47
1959..................	54,100	11,400*	16,800*	25,900*	21	31	48
1960..................	57,800	13,300	20,800	23,700	23	36	41
1961..................	61,600	15,400	22,200	24,000	25	36	39
1962..................	62,900	14,500	25,800	22,600	23	41	36
1963..................	67,300	17,500	26,900	22,900	26	40	34
1964..................	71,600	18,600	29,400	23,600	26	41	33
1965..................	76,700	20,700	32,200	23,800	27	42	31
1966..................	80,600	23,400	33,800	23,400	29	42	29
1967..................	83,700	25,100	36,800	21,800	30	44	26
1968..................	86,300	26,800	37,100	22,400	31	43	26
1969..................	88,900	28,400	38,300	22,200	32	43	25
1970..................	89,200	29,500	40,100	19,600	33	45	22
1971..................	82,800	29,800	35,600	17,400	36	43	21
1972..................	65,335	24,853	26,794	13,688	38	41	21
1973..................	59,200*	22,500*	23,700*	13,000*	38	40	22
1974..................	49,700*	19,400*	17,900*	12,400*	39	36	25
1975..................	47,700*	18,600*	18,100*	11,000*	39	38	23
1982..................	50,720	19,428	14,549	16,743	38	29	33

*Indicates estimates recently published by Maza (see table 7 footnote). All other 1955-1971 estimates are as originally published, with appropriate references cited by Maza. 1972 data were adapted from Hoeppner (1977) by the National Committee For Adoption, as specified in the footnote in table 6. 1982 data were collected by the National Committee For Adoption (see Appendix D).

Table 9. Immigrant orphans admitted to the United States by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1979-1984

Country or region of birth	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
All countries	4,864	5,139	4,868	5,749	7,127	8,327
Europe	141	114	96	71	96	79
Austria	2	2	1	1	-	-
Belgium	1	-	-	2	-	-
Bulgaria	-	-	-	-	1	-
Czechoslovakia	-	-	-	-	-	1
Denmark	-	1	1	-	-	-
Finland	1	1	-	1	-	-
France	1	4	2	-	-	-
Germany[a]	38	21	12	N/A	N/A	-
Germany, Federal Republic[a]	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	11	8
Greece	15	14	17	10	8	8
Hungary	-	-	4	-	3	-
Iceland	-	-	1	-	-	-
Ireland	1	1	3	1	2	-
Italy	2	6	6	3	5	-
Malta	-	-	-	-	1	1
Netherlands	-	-	-	-	1	-
Poland	28	20	21	12	31	26
Portugal	15	23	9	13	17	16
Romania	1	1	-	-	3	3
Spain	7	4	4	2	3	1
Sweden	-	-	-	1	-	-
Switzerland	1	-	-	-	-	1
U.S.S.R.	-	-	-	1	-	-
United Kingdom	22	14	12	14	7	8
Yugoslavia	6	2	3	4	3	6
Asia	3,139	3,434	3,216	4,189	5,334	6,251
Afghanistan	-	-	-	-	2	-
Bahrain	-	-	1	-	-	-
Bangladesh	8	-	7	6	25	1
Bhutan	-	-	-	1	-	-
China[b]	65	51	56	N/A	N/A	N/A
China, Mainland[b]	N/A	N/A	N/A	31	7	6
Cyprus	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hong Kong	6	14	19	18	29	30
India	231	319	314	409	409	468
Indonesia	11	7	4	6	7	3
Iran	9	9	2	2	2	2
Iraq	-	2	1	1	-	-
Israel	3	4	2	-	-	2
Japan	46	36	38	30	36	45
Jordan	2	-	2	3	1	6
Kampuchea	-	-	1	-	-	-
Korea	2,406	2,683	2,444	3,254	4,412	5,157
Kuwait	-	-	-	1	-	-
Laos	-	8	-	1	1	-
Lebanon	10	6	15	6	14	15
Macau	-	-	-	2	-	-
Malaysia	2	-	-	2	1	1
Nepal	3	3	1	3	-	3
Pakistan	9	17	6	5	9	14
Philippines	297	253	278	345	302	408
Singapore	-	1	1	-	-	-
Sri Lanka	2	2	4	2	4	3
Syria	-	1	-	-	-	2
Taiwan[b]	N/A	N/A	N/A	35	55	56
Thailand	27	13	11	19	12	19
Turkey	1	3	6	-	2	8
Vietnam	1	1	2	6	3	2
Yemen (Aden)	-	1	1	1	-	-

See footnotes at end of table.

Country or region of birth	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
Africa	19	25	11	7	12	8
Angola	-	1	-	-	-	-
Botswana	1	1	-	-	-	-
Burundi	3	-	-	-	-	-
Cape Verde	4	7	3	2	4	1
Egypt	2	1	-	-	-	-
Ethiopia	1	5	-	-	2	1
Ghana	-	-	1	-	-	-
Kenya	-	1	1	1	1	2
Liberia	-	2	-	-	-	-
Malawi	1	-	-	-	-	-
Mauritius	-	-	-	-	1	-
Morocco	2	-	-	-	-	1
Nigeria	-	2	-	-	-	2
Senegal	1	1	2	1	-	-
Seychelles	-	-	1	-	-	-
Sierra Leone	-	-	-	-	1	-
Somalia	-	-	1	-	-	-
South Africa	-	2	2	-	1	-
Tanzania	-	1	-	2	-	-
Togo	-	-	-	1	-	-
Tunisia	1	1	-	-	-	-
Zaire	3	-	-	-	-	-
Zimbabwe	-	-	-	-	2	1
Oceania	6	2	9	7	9	9
Australia	-	1	-	1	1	-
Fiji	-	-	-	1	2	-
French Polynesia	1	-	1	1	-	1
New Zealand	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pacific Island, Trust Territory	2	-	2	2	1	5
Tonga	-	1	-	-	4	1
Western Samoa	3	-	4	2	1	2
North America	667	657	635	678	761	1,026
Canada	66	64	48	14	8	9
Mexico	139	144	116	98	110	168
United States	-	1	-	-	-	-
Caribbean	56	89	82	103	86	93
Antigua-Barbuda	2	-	2	2	3	2
Bahamas, The	1	1	-	1	2	3
Barbados	-	1	2	1	1	2
Bermuda	-	1	-	-	-	-
Cayman Islands	-	-	1	-	1	5
Cuba	-	1	1	-	1	-
Dominica	2	1	-	-	-	-
Dominican Republic	14	26	21	45	42	44
Grenada	1	-	1	1	1	1
Guadeloupe	-	2	-	-	1	-
Haiti	1	14	8	14	10	13
Jamaica	33	33	42	33	18	16
Netherlands Antilles	-	1	-	-	-	1
St. Christ-Nevis	-	1	-	3	2	-
St. Lucia	-	-	-	-	1	-
St. Vincent and Grenad	1	-	2	-	2	1
Trinidad and Tobago	1	6	2	3	1	5
Turks and Caicos Islands	-	1	-	-	-	-
Central America	406	359	389	463	557	756
Belize	2	1	3	12	13	5
Costa Rica	100	62	48	108	90	99
El Salvador	139	179	224	199	240	364
Guatemala	75	75	82	98	105	110
Honduras	19	20	13	22	97	148
Nicaragua	46	11	6	4	2	10
Panama	25	11	13	20	10	20

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 9. Immigrant orphans admitted to the United States by country or region of birth, fiscal years 1979-1984--Continued

Country or region of birth	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984
South America	892	907	901	797	915	954
Argentina	7	4	4	4	2	7
Bolivia	16	11	12	9	27	24
Brazil	25	48	62	72	55	117
Chile	90	92	106	113	172	153
Colombia	626	653	628	534	608	595
Ecuador	39	32	20	11	10	12
French Guiana	-	2	-	-	-	-
Guyana	15	4	10	9	7	2
Paraguay	-	1	1	6	11	8
Peru	72	54	54	35	19	31
Suriname	1	-	-	-	-	-
Uruguay	-	1	3	1	-	3
Venezuela	1	5	1	3	4	2

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[a] Prior to FY 1982, data for Federal Republic of Germany and German Democratic Republic are consolidated under Germany.
[b] Prior to FY 1982, data for Mainland China and Taiwan are consolidated under China.
N/A: Not applicable.

SOURCE: The 1979-1983 data in this table were recompiled by the National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) based on data published by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (1983 Statistical Yearbook of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.; see table IMM 2.5, Immigrant Orphans Admitted to the United States by Country or Region of Birth, Fiscal Years 1979-1983). 1984 data are based on special tabulation purchased from INS by NCFA. The 1982 INS count of 5,749 immigrant orphans differs slightly from the NCFA figure of 5,707 used in tables 1, 5, and 10 because of slight differences in fiscal year and calendar year counts, and NCFA apportionment of "not stated" cases, as discussed in the footnote in table 10.

Table 10. Number of foreign adoptions, percent distribution, and 1982-1984 percentage change for each State, Division, and the United States

Geographic division and State	1982		1983		1984		Percent increase + or (decrease -) 1982 to 1984
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
United States..........	5,707	100.0	7,076	100.0	8,306	100.0	+45.5
New England..............	409	7.2	527	7.4	723	8.7	+76.8
Maine.........................	31	0.5	29	0.4	62	0.7	+100.0
New Hampshire................	28	0.5	30	0.4	36	0.4	+28.6
Vermont.......................	8	0.1	29	0.4	43	0.5	+437.5
Massachusetts................	260	4.6	304	4.3	400	4.8	+53.8
Rhode Island.................	9	0.2	13	0.2	20	0.2	+122.2
Connecticut..................	73	1.3	122	1.7	162	2.0	+121.9
Middle Atlantic..........	1,292	22.6	1,754	24.8	1,843	22.2	+42.6
New York.....................	664	11.6	824	11.6	921	11.0	+38.7
New Jersey...................	333	5.8	530	7.5	488	5.9	+46.5
Pennsylvania.................	295	5.2	400	5.7	434	5.2	+47.1
East North Central.......	770	13.5	976	13.8	1,247	15.0	+61.9
Ohio..........................	130	2.3	126	1.8	185	2.2	+42.3
Indiana.......................	62	1.1	49	0.7	62	0.7	0.0
Illinois.....................	85	1.5	119	1.7	192	2.3	+125.9
Michigan......................	359	6.3	486	6.9	580	7.0	+61.6
Wisconsin.....................	134	2.3	196	2.8	228	2.7	+70.1
West North Central.......	1,028	18.0	1,155	16.3	1,184	14.3	+15.2
Minnesota.....................	604	10.6	586	8.3	645	7.8	+6.8
Iowa..........................	185	3.2	279	3.9	249	3.0	+34.6
Missouri......................	127	2.2	126	1.8	135	1.6	+6.3
North Dakota..................	17	0.3	11	0.2	27	0.3	+58.8
South Dakota..................	6	0.1	12	0.2	12	0.1	+100.0
Nebraska......................	38	0.7	79	1.1	66	0.8	+73.7
Kansas........................	51	0.9	62	0.9	50	0.6	(-2.0)
South Atlantic...........	513	9.0	754	10.7	873	10.5	+70.2
Delaware......................	11	0.2	11	0.2	36	0.4	+227.3
Maryland......................	221	3.9	334	4.7	261	3.1	+18.1
District of Columbia.........	11	0.2	27	0.4	35	0.4	+218.2
Virginia......................	95	1.7	164	2.3	207	2.5	+117.9
West Virginia................	10	0.2	18	0.3	40	0.5	+300.0
North Carolina...............	17	0.3	20	0.3	29	0.3	+70.6
South Carolina...............	22	0.4	22	0.3	39	0.5	+77.3
Georgia.......................	31	0.5	64	0.9	72	0.9	+132.3
Florida.......................	95	1.7	94	1.3	154	1.9	+62.1
East South Central.......	93	1.6	157	2.2	207	2.5	+122.6
Kentucky......................	13	0.2	21	0.3	46	0.6	+253.8
Tennessee.....................	46	0.8	69	1.0	56	0.7	+21.7
Alabama.......................	22	0.4	47	0.7	71	0.9	+222.7
Mississippi..................	12	0.2	20	0.3	34	0.4	+183.3

See footnotes at end of table.

Geographic division and State	1982		1983		1984		Percent increase + o (decrease - 1982 to 198
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
West South Central.......	186	3.3	203	2.9	306	3.7	+64.5
Arkansas......................	15	0.3	22	0.3	24	0.3	+60.0
Louisiana.....................	36	0.6	24	0.3	36	0.4	0.0
Oklahoma......................	55	1.0	84	1.2	84	1.0	+52.7
Texas.........................	80	1.4	73	1.0	162	2.0	+102.5
Mountain..................	336	5.9	371	5.2	527	6.3	+56.8
Montana.......................	11	0.2	4	0.1	15	0.2	+36.4
Idaho.........................	33	0.6	43	0.6	49	0.6	+48.5
Wyoming.......................	4	0.1	4	0.1	12	0.1	+200.0
Colorado......................	141	2.5	161	2.3	249	3.0	+76.6
New Mexico....................	15	0.3	6	0.1	14	0.2	(-6.7)
Arizona.......................	19	0.3	34	0.5	64	0.8	+236.8
Utah..........................	109	1.9	110	1.6	115	1.4	+5.5
Nevada........................	4	0.1	9	0.1	9	0.1	+125.0
Pacific...................	1,080	18.9	1,179	16.7	1,396	16.8	+29.3
Washington....................	297	5.2	336	4.7	395	4.8	+33.0
Oregon........................	174	3.0	188	2.7	205	2.5	+17.8
California....................	429	7.5	428	6.0	557	6.7	+29.8
Alaska........................	34	0.6	59	0.8	66	0.8	+94.1
Hawaii........................	146	2.6	168	2.4	173	2.1	+18.5

SOURCE: These data are based on special tabulations purchased from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) by the National Committee For Adoption. Also see "Source" footnote for table 9. The 1982 INS data included 2.6 perce of foreign adoptions where State of destination was unknown, and these were proportionately distributed by State to arrive at our best estimate of 5,707 foreign adoptions. The 1983 INS data included 3.5 percent of foreign adoptions where State of destination was unknown, and these were proportionately distributed by State to arrive at our best estimate of 7,085 foreign adoptions. The 1984 INS data included no unknowns, and were therefore not adjusted.

Percentages may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Table 11. Number and percent of foreign adoptions in the U.S. according to sex, age, and major countries of origin: 19

Selected characteristics	Number	Percent
Total	8,327	100.0
Sex		
Male	3,380	40.6
Female	4,947	59.4
Age		
Under 1 year	5,062	60.8
1-4 years	1,935	23.2
5-9 years	792	9.5
10 years or over	538	6.5
Major countries of origin ranked		
Korea	5,157	61.9
Colombia	595	7.1
India	468	5.6
Philippines	408	4.9
El Salvador	364	4.4
Mexico	168	2.0
Chile	153	1.8
Honduras	148	1.8
Brazil	117	1.4
Guatemala	110	1.3
All others	639	7.7

SOURCE: Compiled from data purchased by the National Committee For Adoption from the Statistical Analysis Branch, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. The 8,327 total includes 7,226 IR4 adoptions, 1,047 IR3 adoptions, 50 IR8 adoptions, and four IR9 adoptions. IR4 and IR9 represents adoptive children admitted to the U.S. for purposes of adoption here; IR3 and IR8 represents children adopted and then brought to the U.S.

Total may not add to 100.0 due to rounding.

Appendices

A. Inventory of Adoption Agencies Which Support the National Committee For Adoption

The National Committee For Adoption (NCFA) is the Washington, D.C. headquarters organization of a non-profit, volunta movement to strengthen adoption and related services. NCFA was founded in 1980, and has over 100 local adoption or maternity services agencies throughout the United States in its membership.

All of the following NCFA agencies are non-profit, volunteer organizations guided by volunteer board members and staffed predominantly by professional social workers. These agencies offer counseling services to all members of the adoption circle, including single, unmarried or troubled parents, couples with infertility problems or seeking to adopt a child, or persons who have been served by adoption agencies in the past. Most agencies offer a variety of maternity services, including residential care, to enable a woman to decide, in a professionally-sound but private environment, what option is best for herself and her unborn baby. These agencies find the best possible homes for children who need them, including healthy children born in the United States, children with special needs from every country, and healthy children from other countries who could benefit from a home in the United States.

NCFA agencies receive the majority of their support from fees for services, as well as support from private contribut and foundations. Each year approximately 650,000 persons benefit directly or indirectly by the services and programs offered by these agencies. The dues paid by these agencies to NCFA headquarters in Washington, D.C., supported the production of this ADOPTION FACTBOOK, and their contribution is deeply appreciated.

ALASKA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

ALABAMA - Lifeline Children's Services, 2908 Pump House Road, Birmingham, AL 35243 (205)967-0811

ARIZONA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

CALIFORNIA - Bethany Christian Services, P.O. Box 10774, Glendale, CA 91209 (818)241-6363,
-Bethany Christian Services, 115D Mark Randy Place, Modesto, CA 95350 (209)522-5121
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

COLORADO - Bethany Christian Services, 2150 South Bellaire, #201, Denver, CO 80222 (303)758-4484
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

CONNECTICUT - Catholic Charities/Catholic Family Services, Inc., 896 Asylum Avenue,
Hartford, CT 06105-1991 (203)522-8241

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Adoption Services Information Agency/ASIA,
7720 Alaska Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 (202)726-7193
-The Barker Foundation, 4545 42nd Street, N.W., #207, Washington, D.C. 20016 (202)363-7751

FLORIDA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

GEORGIA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)
-In His Care Adoption Agency, P.O. Box 370928, Decatur, GA 30037 (404)241-8062

HAWAII - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

IDAHO - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

ILLINOIS - *St. Mary's Services, 5725 North Kenmore, Chicago, IL 60660 (312)561-5288,
-The Cradle Society, 2049 Ridge Avenue, Evanston, IL 60204 (312)475-5800
-Bethany Christian Services, 12201 S. Harlem, Palos Heights, IL 60463 (312)361-2588
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

INDIANA - Bethany Christian Services, 9595 N. Whitley Dr., #210, Indianapolis, IN 46240 (317)848-9518
-Childplace, 2420 Highway 62, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 (812)282-8240
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

IOWA - Bethany Christian Services, 322 Central Avenue N.W., P.O. Box 143, Orange City, IA 51401 (712)737-4831
-Bethany Christian Services, 901½ Main Street, P.O. Box 235, Pella, IA 50219 (515)628-4606

KENTUCKY - Childplace, 6105 Outer Loop, Louisville, KY 40219 (502)969-0977

LOUISIANA - *Associated Catholic Charities, 1231 Prytania Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504)523-3755,
-*Children's Bureau of New Orleans, 226 Carondelet Street, #801, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504)525-2366
-*Volunteers of America, 1514 Peniston Street, New Orleans, LA 70115 (504)895-0646
-*Volunteers of America, 354 Jordan Street, Shreveport, LA 71101 (318)221-2669
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

MAINE - St. Andre Home, Inc., 283 Elm Street, Biddeford, ME 04005 (207)282-3351

MARYLAND - Bethany Christian Services, 114 Annapolis Street, Annapolis, MD 21401 (301)263-7703
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

MASSACHUSETTS - Bethany Christian Services, 62 Foundry Street, Wakefield, MA 01880 (617)246-1890
-Our Lady of Providence Center, 2112 Riverdale Street, W. Springfield, MA 01089 (413)788-7366
-Catholic Charities of Worcester, 15 Ripley Street, Worcester, MA 01610 (617)798-0191

MICHIGAN - Bethany Christian Services, 6995 West 48th, P.O. Box 173, Fremont, MI 49412 (616)924-3390,
-Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern Avenue, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616)459-6273, 1-800-BETHANY (nationa
-Bethany Christian Services, Dolly Madison Office Ctr., Suite 250, 32500 Concord Drive, Madison Hghts., MI 48071
(313)588-9400
-Bethany Christian Services, 135 N. State Street, Zeeland, MI 49464 (616)772-9195,
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

MINNESOTA - Bethany Christian Services, 421 South Main, Stillwater, MN 55082 (612)439-9603

MISSISSIPPI - Bethany Christian Services, Woodland Hills Office Bldg., #360, 3000 Old Canton Road,
Jackson, MS 39216 (601)366-4282

MISSOURI - The Adams Center, 9200 Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo 64114 (816)444-4545
-Bethany Christian Services, 7750 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117 (314)644-3535
-Catholic Services for Children & Youth, 4140 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108 (314)371-4980
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

MONTANA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

NEBRASKA - Nebraska Children's Home Society, 3549 Fontenelle Blvd., Omaha, NE 68104 (402)451-0787

NEVADA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

NEW HAMPSHIRE - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

NEW JERSEY - Bethany Christian Services, 475 High Mountain Road, North Haledon, NJ 07508
(201)427-2566
-Catholic Family & Community Services, 10 Jackson Street, Paterson, NJ 07501 (201)279-7100

NEW MEXICO - Chaparral Home & Adoption Services, 4401 Lomas, N.E., Albuquerque, NM 87110
(505)266-5837
-Christian Placement Services, West Star Route Box 48, Portales, NM 88130 (505)356-4232
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

NEW YORK - *Spence-Chapin Services, 6 East 94th Street, New York, NY 10028 (212)369-0300
-Family Services of Westchester, 470 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Planes, NY 10605 (914)948-8004
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)
-Community Maternity Services, 27 North Main Avenue, Albany, NY 12203 (518)482-8836
-Nazareth Life Center, Box 242, Garrison, NY 10524 (914)424-3116

NORTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 25 Reed Street, P.O. Box 15436,
Asheville, NC 28813-0436 (704)272-7146
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

OHIO - Bethany Christian Services, Walter L. Mitchell Bldg., #340, 1655 W. Market Street, Akron, OH 44313
(216)867-2362
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

OKLAHOMA - Deaconess Home, 5401 North Portland, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 (405)946-5581
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

OREGON - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

PENNSYLVANIA - Golden Cradle Home, 555 East City Line Avenue, Bala Cynwyd, PA 19004
(215)668-2136
-Bethany Christian Services, The Village Plaza, 224 Manor Avenue, P.O. Box 317, Millerville, PA 17551
(717)872-0945
-Bethany Christian Services, 906 Bethlehem Pike, #204, Philadelphia, PA 19118 (215)233-4626
-Children's Home of Pittsburgh, 5618 Kentucky Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15232 (412)441-4884
-Family Health Council/Western Pennsylvania, 1200 Allegheny Tower, 625 Stanwix Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412)288-2130

RHODE ISLAND - Catholic Social Services, 433 Elmwood Avenue, Providence, RI 02907
(401)467-7200

SOUTH CAROLINA - Tender Loving Care Adoption Agency, c/o PTL Home Missions,
Business Highway 21, Fort Mill, SC 29715 (803)548-5100, ext. 2258
-Bethany Christian Services, 300 University Ridge #114, Greenville, SC 29601 (803)235-2273

SOUTH DAKOTA - LDS Social Services (See Utah)

TENNESSEE - Bethany Christian Services, 4719 Brainerd Rd., Suite D, Chattanooga, TN 37411
(615)622-7360

TEXAS - *Catholic Family Service, Inc., P.O. Box 15127, Amarillo, TX 79105-5127, (806)376-4571
-*Catholic Social Service, 1025 S. Jennings, #310, Fort Worth, TX 76104 (817)877-1231
-*The Edna Gladney Home, 2300 Hemphill Street, Forth Worth, TX 76110 (817)926-3304, 1-800-772-2740 (Texas only), 1-800-433-2922 (other states)
-*Homes of St. Mark, 1302 Marshall, Houston, TX 77006 (713)522-2800, 1-800-392-3807 (Texas only)
-*Smithlawn Home and Adoption Agency, Box 6451, Lubbock, TX 79413 (806)745-2574
-*Children's Service Bureau, 625 North Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78215 (512)223-6281
-*Southwest Maternity Center, 6487 Whitby Road, San Antonio, TX 78240 (512)696-7021, 1-800-292-5103 (Texas only), 1-800-255-9612 (other states)
-*Texas Cradle Society, 8222 Wurzbach, San Antonio, TX 78229 (512)696-7700
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

UTAH - LDS Social Services are organized to serve members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon Services are provided by a network of 61 agencies in the U.S. For information about the LDS Social Services office nearest to you, call (801)531-3636 or write: LDS Social Services, 50 East North Temple, Seventh Floor, Salt Lake City, UT 84150

VIRGINIA - Bethany Christian Services, 8215 Centreville Road, Manassas, VA 22111 (703)368-7881
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

WASHINGTON - Bethany Christian Services, Herald Building, #524, 1155 N. State Street, Bellingham, WA 98225 (206)733-6042
-New Hope of Washington, 11000 Lake City Way, N.E., #400, Seattle, WA 98125 (206)363-1800
-LDS Social Services (See Utah)

WISCONSIN - Bethany Christian Services, W255 N499 Grandview Blvd., #101, Waukesha, WI 53187 (414)547-6557

*charter agencies.

B. Organizations and Resources

1. State Employed Adoption Specialists

Resource persons employed in the State social service systems:

ALABAMA - Emogene Austin, Alabama Dept. of Pensions and Security, 64 N. Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36130
(205)261-3190

ALASKA - Kay Smith, Alaska Dept. of Health and Social Services, Pouch H-05, Juneau, AK 99811 (907)465-3631

ARIZONA - Pat Orozco, Arizona Dept. of Economic Security, 1400 West Washington, 940A, Phoenix, AZ 85007
(602)255-3981

ARKANSAS - Richard Dietz, Arkansas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 1437, Little Rock, AR 72203
(501)371-2207

CALIFORNIA - Sharrell Blakeley, Adoptions Branch, California Dept. of Social Services, 744 P Street, M/S 19-31,
Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)445-3146

COLORADO - Charlotte Little, Colorado Dept. of Social Services, 1575 Sherman Street, Room 404, Denver, CO 80203
(303)866-5268

CONNECTICUT - Sharon Cooke, Connecticut Dept. of C.&Y.S., 176 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06105
(203)566-8742

DELAWARE - Carol King, Delaware Dept. of Children Youth and Their Families, 1824 Market Street,
Wilmington, DE 19801 (302)571-6419

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Evelyn Andrews, District of Columbia Dept. of Human Services, 500 1st Street/8th Floor,
Washington, D.C. 20001 (202)727-0672

FLORIDA - Gloria Walker, Florida Dept. of Health and Rehabilitative Services, 1317 Winewood, Building 8,
Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904)488-1060

GEORGIA - Geraldine Jackson, Georgia Dept. of Human Resources, 787 Peachtree Street N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309
(404)894-3376

HAWAII - Beatrice Yuh, Hawaii Dept. of Social Services and Housing, P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, HI 96809 (808)548-6739

IDAHO - Shirley Wheatley, Idaho Dept. of Health and Welfare, Statehouse, Boise, ID 83720 (208)384-3546

ILLINOIS - Gary Morgan, Illinois Dept. of Children and Family Services, 100 West Randolph, Chicago, IL 60601
(312)917-6864

INDIANA - Pat Vesper, Indiana Dept. of Public Welfare, Child Welfare and Soc. Ser. Div., 141 South Meridian Street,
6th Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46225 (317)232-4434

IOWA - Margaret Corkery, Iowa Dept. of Human Services, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319
(515)281-6216

KANSAS - Barbara Stodgell, Kansas Dept. of Soc. & Rehab. Services, 2700 W. 6th Street, Topeka, KS 66606
(913)296-4661

KENTUCKY - Sue Howard, Kentucky Cabinet for Human Resources, 275 East Main Street, 6th Floor West, Frankfort, KY
40621 (502)564-2136

LOUISIANA - Nancy Miller, Louisiana Dept. of Health and Human Services, Division of Youth and Families,
P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 (504)342-4028

MAINE - Leanore Taylor, Maine Dept. of Human Services, State House, 221 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333 (207)289-2972

MARYLAND - Fern Blake, Maryland Dept. of Human Resources, 1100 N. Utah Place, Baltimore, MD 21201 (301)576-5238

MASSACHUSETTS - Shiela Frankel, Massachusetts Dept. of Social Services, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114
(617)727-0900 (Ext. 231)

MICHIGAN - Nancy Duncan, Michigan Dept. of Social Services, P.O. Box 30037, Lansing, MI 48909 (517)373-7580

MINNESOTA - Ruth Weidell, Minnesota Dept. of Human Services, Centennial Office Building, St. Paul, MN 55155
(612)296-3740

MISSISSIPPI - Mary Ann Everett, Mississippi Dept. of Public Welfare, P.O. Box 352, Jackson, MS 39205 (601)354-0341

MISSOURI - Kay Conklin, Missouri Dept. of Social Services, P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103 (314)751-4832

MONTANA - Betty Bay, Montana Dept. of Social and Rehabilitative Services, P.O. Box 4210, Helena, MT 59604
(406)444-3865

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NEBRASKA - Margaret Bitz, Nebraska Dept. of Social Services, 301 Centennial Mall, South, Lincoln, NE 68509
(402)471-3121

NEVADA - Mary Lee, Nevada Dept. of Human Services/Welfare Div., 251 Jeanell Dr., Carson City, NV 89701 (702)885-47

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Florence Skantze, New Hampshire Dept. of Health and Welfare, Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03301
(603)271-4457

NEW JERSEY - Mary Lou Sweeney, New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Service, 1 South Montgomery Street, C.N. 717
Trenton, NJ 09625 (609)633-3991

NEW MEXICO - Doris Robertson, New Mexico Human Services Dept., P.O. Box 2348, Santa Fe, NM 87504
(505)827-4110

NEW YORK - Peter Winkler, New York State Dept. of Soc. Ser., 40 N. Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12243
(518)473-0855

NORTH CAROLINA - Robin Peacock, N.C. Dept. of Human Services, Division of Social Services, 325 North Salisbury Stre
Raleigh, NC 27611 (919)733-3801

NORTH DAKOTA - Virginia Peterson, North Dakota Dept. of Human Services, State Capitol Building, Bismark, ND 58505
(701)224-3580

OHIO - Ann Maxwell, Ohio Dept. of Human Services, 30 East Broad Street, 30th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215
(614)466-8510

OKLAHOMA - Jane Connor, Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 25352, Oklahoma City, OK 73125
(405)521-2475

OREGON - Fred Stock, Oregon Dept. of Human Services, Children's Services Division, 198 Commercial Street, S.E.,
Salem, OR 97310 (503)378-4452

PENNSYLVANIA - Robert Gioffre, Pennsylvania Dept. of Public Welfare, 1514 N. Second Street, Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17120 (717)787-4882

PUERTO RICO - Beatrice Cruz, Puerto Rico Dept. of Social Services, P.O. Box 11398, Santurce, PR 00910
(809)723-2127

RHODE ISLAND - John Sinapi, Rhode Island Dept. of Children and Their Families, 610 Mt. Pleasant Avenue,
Providence, RI 02908 (401)861-6000 (Ext. 2155)

SOUTH CAROLINA - Betty Colquon, Office for Children's Services, South Carolina Dept. of Social Services,
P.O. Box 1520, Columbia, SC 29202 (803)758-8740

SOUTH CAROLINA - Kathryn Queen, Children's Bureau of South Carolina, 1001 Harden Street, Suite 225
Columbia, SC 29202 (803)758-2702

SOUTH DAKOTA - Patricia Stewart, South Dakota Dept. of Social Services, Richard F. Kneip Building,
Pierre, SD 57501 (605)773-3227

TENNESSEE - Patricia Overton, Tennessee Dept. of Human Services, 111-19 Seventh Avenue, N., Nashville, TN 37203
(615)741-5938

TEXAS - Susan Klickman, Texas Dept. of Human Services, P.O. Box 2960, Austin, TX 78769 (512)450-3302

UTAH - Mary Lines, Utah Dept. of Social Services, Division of Family Services, 150 West North Temple,
Salt Lake City, UT 84110 (801)533-7132

VERMONT - Maureen Thompson, Vermont Dept. of Soc. & Rehab. Services, 103 S. Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676
(802)241-2150

VIRGINIA - Beverly Burand or Brenda Kerr, Virginia Dept. of Soc. Services, 8007 Discovery Drive, Richmond, VA 23229-8
(804)281-9146

WASHINGTON - Nancy Roberts Brown, Washington Dept. of Social and Health Services, Office Building #2,
Olympia, WA 98504 (206)753-2178

WEST VIRGINIA - Rozella Archer, West Va. Dept. of Human Services, 1900 Washington Street, East,
Charleston, WV 25305 (304)348-7980

WISCONSIN - Christopher Marciell, Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Social Services, P.O. Box 7851,
Madison, WI 53707 (608)266-0700

WYOMING - John Steinberg, Wyoming Dept. of Social Services, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002
(307)777-6075

REGIONAL OFFICES

You may also contact the Regional Program Director for Children, Youth and Families in the Regional Office of Human Development Services which serves your state:

REGION I - (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont) JFK Federal Building, Room 2000,
Boston, MA 02203, (617)233-6450

REGION II - (New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands) Federal Building, 26 Federal Plaza,
New York, NY 10278, (212)264-3472

REGION III - (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia, and District of Columbia) Box 13716,
Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19101, (215)596-0356

REGION IV - (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee),
101 Marietta Tower, Suite 903, Atlanta, GA 30323 (404)221-2134

REGION V - (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin) 300 South Wacker, 13th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606
(312)353-6503

REGION VI - (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas) 1200 Main Tower Bldg., Dallas, TX 75202
(214)767-2976

REGION VII - (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska) 601 E Street, Room 384, Kansas City, MO 64106
(816)374-3981

REGION VIII - (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming) Federal Office Building,
1961 Stout Street, Denver, CO 80294 (303)844-3106

REGION IX - (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, Trust Territory of Pacific Islands, American Samoa)
50 United Nations Plaza, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415)556-4027

REGION X - (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington) 2901 Third Avenue, Mail Stop 503, Seattle, WA 98121
(206)442-0838

2. National Organizations

Organizations which promote adoption of waiting children, act as national information clearinghouses, and provide publications and resource materials:

National Committee For Adoption
2025 M Street, N.W., Suite 512, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)463-7559

AASK America
(Aid to Adoption of Special Kids), 3530 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 (415)451-1748

National Adoption Exchange
1218 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)925-0200

National Special Needs Adoption Initiative
Office of Human Development Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Box 1182, Washington, D.C. 20013

Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs,
Public Information Specialist, Public Health Service, Dept. of Health and Human Services, 330 Independence Ave., S.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20201

3. Relevant National Health Organizations

List of organizations providing information, referral services, newsletters, and resource materials which may be useful for those adopting a special needs child.

Alexander Graham Bell Association for the Deaf
3417 Volta Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 (202)337-5220

American Foundation for the Blind
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011 (212)620-2000

Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities
4156 Library Road, Pittsburg, PA 15234 (412)341-1515

Association for Retarded Citizens
2501 Avenue J, P.O. Box 6109, Arlington, TX 76006 (817)640-0204

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
6000 Executive Blvd., Suite 309, Rockville, MD 20852 (301)770-7555

Down's Syndrome Congress
1640 West Roosevelt Road, Room 156-E, Chicago, IL 60608

Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults
2023 West Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612 (312)243-8400

Epilepsy Foundation of America
4351 Garden City Drive, Suite 406, Landover, MD 20785 (301)459-3700

Muscular Dystrophy Association of America
810 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10019 (212)586-0808

National Assocation For the Deaf-Blind
2703 Forest Oak Circle, Norman, OK 73071

National Association for the Deaf
814 Thayer Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301)587-1788

National Center for Health Statistics
STIB, 3700 East-West Highway, Room 1-57, Hyattsville, MD 20782 (301)436-8500

National Society for Children and Adults with Autism
1234 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite 1017, Washington, DC 20005 (202)783-0125

Spina Bifida Association of America
343 South Dearborn, Room 310, Chicago, IL 60604 (312)663-1562, (800)621-3141

4. National and Regional Adoption Exchanges

These exchanges act as central registries which attempt to "bring together" waiting children and appropriate families

The CAP Book, Inc.
(Council of Adoptive Parents), 700 Exchange Street, Rochester, NY 14608 (716)232-5110, Peggy Soule, Director

AASK
(Aid to Adoption of Special Kids), 3530 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 (415)451-1748, Mary Bohan, Director,
(California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii; others welcome)

CPFAC
(Colorado Parents for All Children), 6660 South Race Circle West, Littleton, CO 80121 (303)320-7801, Vi Pierce,
Director, (South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Colorado)

DARE
(Delaware Valley Adoption Resource Exchange), Adoption Center of Delaware Valley, 1218 Chestnut Street, Suite 204,
Philadelphia, PA 19107 (215)925-0200, Carolyn Johnson, Executive Director, Marlene Piasecki,
Director of Exchange Services, (Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey)

Exchanges of Mid-America
Kansas Children's Service League, P.O. Box 5314, Topeka, KS 66605 (913)232-0543, Andy Kenkel, Director, (Kansas,
Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri)

Maine-Vermont Exchange
Maine Department of Human Services, Bureau of Social Services, 221 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333 (207)289-2971,
Lenore R. Taylor, Director, (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire)

Metropolitan Adoption Council
615 East 13th Street, Kansas City, MO 64108 (816)274-6179, Liz Hutcheson (Missouri, Kansas)

National Adoption Exchange
Box 1996, Philadelphia, PA 19105 (215)925-0200

National Committee For Adoption
2025 M Street, N.W., Suite 512, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)463-7559

Northwest Adoption Exchange
909 Northeast 43rd Street, Suite 208, Seattle, WA 98105 (206)632-1480, (Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah)

Services to Unmarried Parents and Specialized Adoptions
1216 East McMillan, Cincinnati, OH 45206 (513)221-7862, Kathie Fairbanks, Director

SEE US
(Southeastern Exchange of the United States), 1900 Hampton Street, Columbia, SC 29205, John Wolff, Acting Director,
(Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

TRAC
(Three Rivers Adoption Council), 803 Investment Building, 239 Fourth Avenue, Room 801, Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412)471-8722, Martha G. Ross, Director, (Pennsylvania, West Virginia)

5. State Contacts for Adoption Support Groups

Most of the following individuals serve as referral sources for the network of support groups and adoption services in their State. Those who work through the following organizations are so identified: NACAC (North American Council on Adoptable Children), COAC (Council on Adoptable Children), LAPA (Latin American Parents Association), FACE (Families Adopting Children Everywhere), PACE (Parents of Adopted Children Everywhere), PACO (Parents of Adopted Children Organization), POA (Parents of Overseas Adoptions), and OURS (Organization for United Response). The OURS State contacts are accurate as of May 15, 1985. Many of the numbers listed are home phone numbers, so please restrict calls to reasonable hours.

ALABAMA - Kathy Casler/NACAC, 220 Dexter Avenue, Birmingham, AL 35212 (205)879-7008

ALASKA - (See Washington)
- Anchorage Adoptive Parents/OURS, Jodi Wilcox, 2630 Kingsbridge, Anchorage, AK 99504

ARIZONA - Melanie James/NACAC, 4704 South McAllister, Tempe, AZ 85282 (602)839-0756
- Advocates for Single Parenting/OURS, Sarah Kemmer, 1701 E. Linden, Tucson, AZ 85719

ARKANSAS - Jan Guthrie/NACAC, Route 3, Box 487, Conway, AR 72032 (501)329-5272
- Homer Adoptive Parents Assoc./OURS, Beverly Stollen, SRA Box 29 29-A, Homer, AK 99603
- Julia Frost/NACAC, Rt. 3, Box 900, Alma, AR 72921 (501)997-8131

CALIFORNIA - Sheila Anderson/NACAC, 1181 Tennyson, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266
- Bay Area OURS, Catherine Warren, 1037 Sante Fe, Albany, CA 94706
- OURS of Northern California, Joel and Pam Hart, 3027 Sylvia Lane, Redding, CA 96002 (916)221-4583
- OURS of S. California, Elizabeth Leschley, 1030 Scripps Dr., Claremont, CA 91711
- Families for Adoption/OURS, Michael Baker, 2120 W. Vine, Lodi, CA 95240
- OURS San Diego, Ann Burrows, Pres., 11434 Madera Rosa Way, San Diego, CA 92124
- FAIR/OURS, Harven Ng, 718 E. Meadow Dr., Palo Alto, CA 94303
- Sonoma County OURS, Linda Carniglia, P.O. Box 912, Boyes Hot Spring, CA 95416
- OURS of Valencia, Kathleen Iyengar, 24653 Farrow Dr., Valencia, CA 91355
- I CAN (Intercountry Adoption Network), Susan Burdick, 14630 Vose Street, Van Nuys, CA 91405
- Siskiyou OURS, Carol Palmer, Box 993, Mt. Shasta, CA 96067

COLORADO - Vi Pierce/NACAC, 6660 South Race Circle West, Littleton, CO 80121 (303)795-2890
- OURS/Denver, Margie and John Stoller, 7437 So. Lafayette Cr., E., Littleton, CO 80122
- Fort Collins OURS, Barbara Kunna, 121 North McKinley, Fort Collins, CO 80521
- Longmont OURS, Dana Schmidt, 1528 Hilltop Drive, Longmont, CO 80501
- Windsor Adoption Group/OURS, Andrea Heyman, 1486 Steven Street, Windsor, CO 80550

CONNECTICUT - Jack & Linda Cotter/NACAC, 73 Mather Street, Manchester, CT 06040 (203)649-8115
- OURS Connecticut, Rick and Debbie Burkhart, 54 Kirtland Street, Deep River CT 06417
- International Adoptive Families of Hartford (IAF)/OURS, Phyllis Brett, 84 Robin Circle, Tolland, CT 06084

DELAWARE - Maureen Piper/NACAC, 8 Eberly Drive, Chapel Hill, Newark, DE 19711 (302)366-8286
- Delaware Coalition for Children, 23 Arthur Drive, RD #1, Hockessin, DE 19707
- Adoptive Families with Information and Support, 2610 Northgate Road, Channia, Wilmington, DE 19810

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Nancy Smith/NACAC, 604 Aspen Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 (202)638-4031

FLORIDA - Chris Brower/NACAC, 1356 Hillcrest Avenue South, Clearwater, FL 33516
- Suncoast OURS, Hank and Ann Steffens, 2091 Burnice Drive, Clearwater, FL 33516

GEORGIA - Elizabeth Rowe/NACAC, 1041 Oakdale Road, N.E., Atlanta, GA 30307 (404)378-5358
- North Georgia OURS, Dr. Kenneth Rundle, 41 Cobblestone Creek, Peachtree City, GA 30269
- OURS of Georgia, Pat McMahon, 7435 Roundtree Dr., Riverdale, GA 30274

HAWAII - Priscilla Heilveil/Adoptive Parents League of Hawaii, P.O. Box 4629, Kaneohe, HI 96744 (808)239-8050

IDAHO - Susan Smith/NACAC, North 3431 Pleasant Lane, Post Falls, ID 83854 (208)773-5629
- North Idaho Adoptive Families, Pat Richardson, P.O. Box 729, Post Falls, ID 83854 (208)773-3475
- North Idaho Adoptive Families - Silver Valley Chapter, Jeanne Brown, 111 Woodland Drive, Wallace, ID 83873 (208)556-6171
- North Idaho Adoptive Families - Sandpoint Chapter, Ginney Libbey, 7700 N. Kootenai Road, Sandpoint, ID 83864 (208)263-5391
- Lewis and Clark Adoptive Families, Lori Coons, 3628 16th Street, Lewiston, ID 83501 (208)743-0391
- Adoptive Families of Idaho - Nampa-Caldwell Areas, Janet Benson, 203 E. Colorado, Nampa, ID 83651 H(208)467-2294, O(208)466-5222

Adoptive Families of Idaho - Boise Area, Janet Benson, 203 E. Colorado, Nampa, ID 83651 H(208)467-2294 O(208)466-5222
- Southern Idaho Parents for Children, Connie Parksion, Route 2, Box 111, Buhl, ID 83316
- Families Through Adoption, Linda Peterson, Box 237, McCammon, ID 83250 (208)254-3141
- Jan Lowry/PACE, 1891 Grandview Court, Iadho Falls, ID 83401 (208)523-9138

ILLINOIS - Barbara Hearn/NACAC, 515 West Maple Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521 (312)323-0503
- OURS E. Central Illinois, Brenda Eheart, W. Lake Park, Champaign, IL 61821
- Chicago--S. Suburban OURS, Michaelyn Sloan, 4501 W. 177th Street, Country Club Hills, IL 60477
- OURS of Little Egypt, Richard Walter, 608 S. 14th Street, Herrin, IL 62948
- Greater Quad City OURS, Joseph and Ann Vermeire, 2929 27th Avenue A, Moline, IL 61265
- The Childrens Advocate/OURS, Chris Miller, 900 West Jackson, Ottawa, IL 61350
- Heart of Illinois OURS, Cindy Parry, 3517 N. Finnell Avenue, Peoria, IL 61604
- Ours of South Central Illinois, Nancy and Larry Weitekamp, 406 S. Oak Box 583, Raymond, IL 62560
- OURS--Chicago West Suburban, Gene and Muffy Paquette, 14 Hampshire Court, Boling Brook, IL 60439
- Greater Rockford OURS, Mrs. Rick Jensen, 804 Hollybrook Drive, Machesney Park, IL 61111

INDIANA - Bonnie Henson/NACAC, 0516 East 400th Street, La Porte, IN 46350 (219)393-3259
- Rainbow Families/OURS, Tom and Jan Parrish, P.O. 390, Goshen, IN 46526
- OURS of Indianapolis, David and Kay Korty, 617 Oakland Way, New Whiteland, IN 46184
- OURS/Fort Wayne, Dick and Carol Schwartz, 1209 Illsley Dr., Ft. Wayne, IN 46807
- Tri-State OURS, Carolyn Meyers, 1007 W. Hwy. 662, Newburgh, IN 47630

IOWA - Beverly Chartier/NACAC, R.R. #1, Prole, IA 50229 (515)462-3428
- Cedar Rapids OURS, Trudy Dudley, 6328 Eastview Avenue, S.W., Cedar Rapids, IA 52404
- OURS F.A.I.T.H., (Families Adopting Internationally through Holt), Linda Davis, RR 2, Box 279, Wapello, IA 52653

KANSAS - Pat Washington/NACAC, c/o Mayfield, 10866 Bradshaw, Overland Park, KS 66210 (816)763-5846
- Mid-Kansas OURS, Lynn and Barbara Krom, 909 Cottonwood, McPherson, KS 67460
- OURS Families Through Adoption, M/M Charles E. Myers, 332-3 Doniphan, Ft. Leavenworth, KS 66027

KENTUCKY - Burke Anderson/NACAC, 1774 Gettysburg Drive, Lexington, KY 40504 (606)276-2123
- OURS in Kentucky, Vernon and Ann Gipson, P.O. Box 46, Earlington, KY 42410 (502)383-5772, (502)825-2158

LOUISIANA - Royann Avegno/NACAC, 9500 Abel Lane, Riveridge, LA 70186 (504)737-7778
- Adoptive Couples Together, 9500 Abel Lane, New Orleans, LA 70123 (504)737-2008
- Orleans Region Parent Support Group, 2026 St. Charles Avenue, P.O. Drawer 57149, New Orleans 70157 (504)568-7455
- Baton Rouge Adoptive Parents Support Group, Carol McLaurin, 15355 Schneblen Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70816
- Shreveport Region Adoptive Parents Support Group, 1525 Fairfield Street, Room 320, Shreveport, LA 71130 (318)226-7380
- Monroe Region Adoptive Parents Support Group, State Office Building, Room 450, 122 St. John's Street, Monore, LA 71201
- Citizens for the Adoption of Black Children, 3044 Lexington Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (504)927-0870

MAINE - Dawn Degenhardt/NACAC, 101 North Street, Houlton, ME 04730 (207)532-9800
- Judy Collier/NACAC, 281 Parkmur Ave., Bangor, ME 04411 (207)947-3178

MARYLAND - Sherry Simas, 6902 Nashville Road, Lanham, MD 20706 (301)552-1888
- Adopt Minority Children, 5966 Camelback Lane, Columbia, MD 21045 Terri Kendrix, (301)596-3462
- Black Adoptive Parents of Greater Baltimore, 1516 N. Montford Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21213 Jackie Garner (301)563-0793
- Committee for Single Adoptive Parents, P.O. Box 4074, Chevy Chase, MD 20815
- FACE, Inc., P.O. Box 28058, Northwood Station, Baltimore, MD 21239 Helpline (301)799-2100
- Families Like Ours, (Korean Adoption specialty), 12409 Vinton Terr., Silver Spring, MD 20906
- LAPA, Maryland Regional Chapter, P.O. Box 4403, Silver Spring, MD 20904 (301)572-4955
- Tri-County Advocates, 909 Chancellors Run Road, Great Mills, MD 20634 Fred and Nancy Palmer (301)863-5729
- International Families by Adoption, P.O. Box 1, Woodsboro, MD 21798 Kathy Jenkins (301)271-4163
- Howard County FACE, P.O. Box 318, Simpsonville, MD 21150 Joan Tarbell (301)992-4510, Sue Ryan (301)596-9637
- Southern FACE, 6902 Nashville Road, Lanham, MD 20706 (301)350-0200
- Tri-County FACE, c/o Iris Bennett, 1407 Morgan Station Road, Woodbine, MD 21797
- North Anne Arundel County FACE, c/o J.E. Szczerba, 573 Nolview Court, Glen Burnie, MD 21061

MASSACHUSETTS - Mary Lou Robinson/NACAC, 96 Rick Drive, Florence, MA 01060 (413)584-8459
- Sheila Frankel, Mass. Dept. of Social Services, 150 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114 (617)727-0990 Ext. 231

MICHIGAN - Edie Hoyle/NACAC, 1222 Broadway, Bay City, MI 48706 (517)892-4776
- Families for International Children/OURS, Craig and Jan St. Martin, 751 Cambridge S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49506
- OURS of Greater Ann Arbor, Deb Komerowski, 3025 Braeburn Circle, Ann Arbor, MI 48104
- OURS of Southwestern Michigan, Mary Muday, 562 Columbus, Benton Harbor, MI 49022
- SAIF-Straits Area Inter. Families/OURS, Susan Wirgau, P.O. Box 112, Boyne Falls, MI 49713
- OURS of Flint, David and Irene Eder, 4358 Crest Knoll, Grand Blanc, MI 48439
- OURS of S. Oakland and Wayne Co., Lynne Moffit, 31157 Applewood Lane, Farmington Hills, MI 48018
- OURS of Greater Lansing, Pamela Fuhig, 433 West Ash Street, Mason, MI 48854
- OURS OF Michigan, Daniel and Eileen Whitten, 2835 Cook Street, Niles, MI 49120
- Parents for International Adoption/OURS, Beth Miller, 4519 E. Valley, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
- International Families Through Adoption/W. Michigan OURS, Marshall and Cher Cronican-Walker, 3001 Larkin Street, Muskegon, MI 49441
- OURS of North Oakland County, Mrs. Sherri Arnold, 2640 Hatton Road, Pontiac, MI 48057
- A.D.O.P.T./OURS, Donna Mueller, 3280 Glenbrook, Bay City, MI 48706
- OURS of Northern Michigan, Sarah Lackie, 8470 W. Bay Shore, Traverse City, MI 49684

MINNESOTA - Judith Anderson/NACAC, 9125 W. Bush Lake Road, Minneapolis, MN 55438 (612)941-5146
- OURS of Northeastern Minnesota, Susan Pikula, 923 20th Avenue, W., Virginia, MN 55792
- Tri-State OURS, Roger and Pamela Reinert, RR 1, Box 188, Dawson, MN 56232
- Western Lake Superior OURS, Rose Mellesmoen, 506 North 25th Avenue West, Duluth, MN 55806
- OURS Adoptive Families Today, Kay Wrecke, 282 Amber Lake Drive, Fairmont, MN 56031
- Smiles of OURS, Susan Ommen, 255 Main Avenue, S., Harmony, MN 55939 (507)886-2188
- Minn-Kota OURS, Clarine Thureen, 719 So. 1st Street, Moorhead, MN 56560
- St. Cloud Area OURS, Pete and Karen Evans, 233 14th Avenue, S., St. Cloud, MN 56301
- Blue Mound OURS, Carlenn Scholl, 347 Lakehill Dr., Worthington, MN 56187
- Willmar OURS, Connie Chaplin, 900 Walnut Place, Willmar, MN 56201
- L. Carter/OURS, River So., 1594 Norwood Circle, Eagan, MN 55122
- J. Szezepanski/OURS, Forest Lake, 19123 Layton Avenue, Marine on St. Croix, MN 55047
- S. Danneker, OURS-St. Paul, 524 Brimhall, St. Paul, MN 55116
- Jan Fausch, OURS, 3798 Grand Avenue, White Bear Lake, MN 55110
- Sue Hughes, Parents of Indian Children/OURS, 1795 Lexington S., Mendota Heights, MN 55118
- M/M Hendrickson, OURS/S. Minneapolis, 5336 Xerxes Avenue So., Minneapolis, MN 55419
- LaVon Funck, OURS Mpls, NW, 3018 Yukon Avenue, So., Minneapolis, MN 55427

MISSISSIPPI - COAC of Mississippi, P.O. Box 1184, Jackson, MS 39205
- Linda West/NACAC, 430 Forest Avenue, Jackson, MS 39202 (601)982-9149

MISSOURI - Pat Krippner/NACAC, 6127 Waterman, St. Louis, MO 63112 (314)725-2955,
- Sharon E. Fako/NACAC, 7272 Cornell Avenue, University City, MO 63130 (314)727-9491
- OURS-Adoptive Families, Jefferson & S. Counties, Jim & Mary Ann Dawson, 11 Forest View, Arnold, MO 63010
- Adoptive Parents of the Ozarks/OURS, Warren and Laura Valenti, Bennett Spring, Box 740, Brice Route 16, Lebanon, MO 65536
- OURS of West County, Peter and Jane Bogetto, 417 Gill, Kirkwood, MO 63122

MONTANA - Mel & Lois Ann Jones/NACAC, P.O. Box 485, Anaconda, MT 59711, (406)563-5077
- Families For Adoptable Children, Tom and Gail Cramer, P.O. Box 29, Melrose, MT 59725 (406)835-3231
- Citizens Concerned About Adoption, Pam Moritz, 1 South Montana, Conrad, MT 59425 (406)278-5445
- Great Falls Adoptive Parent Group, Edmund and Nancy Bishop, 2711 Ivy Drive, Great Falls, MT 59404 (406)453-0493
- Together Let's Care, Michael and Bernice Danzer, 4642 Head Drive, Helena, MT 59601 (406)443-5778
- Missoula Adoptive Parent Association, Tim and Barb Tabor, 838 Locust, Missoula, MT 59822 (406)721-7579
- Havre Adoptive Parent Group, Donna Hilliard, 425 1st Avenue, Havre, MT 59501 (406)265-9009
- Billings Adoptive Parent Group, Margaret and Joseph Moran, 2232 Green Terrace Heights, Billings, MT 59102 (406)256-6203
- Bozeman Adoptive Parent Group, Ed Neuman, 20 East Olive 1-D, Bozeman, MT 59715 (406)587-1894

NEBRASKA - Penny Winfield/NACAC, 2320 North 56th Street, Omaha, NE 68104 (402)551-7951
- Intercultural Families/OURS, Kate Moe, 7323 N. 80th Street, Omaha, NE 68122

NEVADA - Patch Donnellan/NACAC, 4951 Plata del Sol, Las Vegas, NV 89121 (702)458-5971

NEW HAMPSHIRE - Lois Emond/NACAC, 6 Woodward Road, Merrimack, NH 03050 (603)424-6397
- OURS of New England, Karen and Charlie Needham, RFD 1, Box 70 B2, 347, Candia Road, Chester, NH 03036

NEW JERSEY - John Coppola/NACAC, Apt. 1913, Pennbrook, Mill Creek Road, Levittown, PA 19054 (215)547-1664
- FACES/OURS, (Families with Adopted Asian Children), Terri Lemon, 600 Almonesson Road, Westville, NJ 08093

NEW MEXICO - Sandra Luck/NACAC, 4374 Ridgeway Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505)662-5424
- Four Corners OURS, Diana Ballinger, 1101 N. Gladeview, Farmington, NM 87401

NEW YORK - Shirley Damboise/NACAC, 22 Yerk Avenue, Ronkonkoma, NY 11779 (516)585-1247
- OURS of Western New York, Mark and Lynn Jay, 60 Marlowe Avenue, Blasdell, NY 14219
- International Adoption Group/OURS, Mike and Kathy Barone, 90 Midvale Terrace, Rochester, NY 14619
- OURS of Greater Utica/Rome, Chris and Tom Riley, 247 Main Street, Whitesboro, NY 13492

NORTH CAROLINA - Jan Chadwick/NACAC, Route 2, Box 56, Apex, NC 27502 (919)362-7006
- Triangle Area OURS, Judith Geyer, 6609 Chantilly Place, Bahama, NC 27503

NORTH DAKOTA - Mary Ellen Preston/NACAC, 415 24th Avenue South, Grand Forks, ND 58201 (701)775-4330
- Southwestern N. Dakota OURS, Marty Van Velduizen, 540 2nd Avenue, SE, Dickinson, ND 58601
- OURS of Central N. Dakota, Tom and Ginger Trousdau, 602 Division Street, N.W., Mandan, ND 58554

OHIO - Sue Miele/NACAC, 1319 Covedale Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45238 (513)921-9128
- OURS of Greater Cincinnati, Sue and Tom Miele, 1319 Covedale Avenue, Cincinnati, OH 45238
- Stark County OURS, Marie O'Brien, 2815 Nicholos Place, Canton, OH 44708
- International Families Through Adoption/OURS, Marlene Jacobs, 102 Jefferson Road, Newark, OH 43055
- Western Reserve Adoptive Parents/OURS, M/M Richard Novak, 8517 Kimblewick, N.E., Warren, OH 44484

OKLAHOMA - Eva Carter/NACAC, 1613 North Broadway Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73103 (405)232-8055
- OURS/Oklahoma City, Carol Kolenda, 2116 Natchez Drive, Norman, OK 73071

OREGON - Harriet Gahr/NACAC, Route 3, Box 194, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503)472-6960
- OURS Oregon, John and Janet Tangney, 6594 Palomino Cir., W. Linn, OR 97068

PENNSYLVANIA (EAST) - Marcia Siegel/NACAC, 20 Lansdowne Court, Lansowne, PA 19050 (215)259-3934
PENNSYLVANIA (WEST) - Pam Grabe/NACAC, 233 West Fulton Street, Butler, PA 16001 (412)283-1971

- Mrs. Roberta Kissinger, RD #1, Red Top Road, Harrisburg, PA 17111 (717)566-0439
- Mrs. Inez Tomlinson, PACO of Lancaster County, 60 North Hazel Street, Manheim, PA 17545 (717)665-4561
- Mr. and Mrs. Henry Will, 132 Pearl Street, Lancaster, PA 17603 (717)392-2038
- Mrs. Rosemary Bailey, PACO of North Central Pennsylvania, 1029 Rural Avenue, Williamsport, PA 17701
- Reading Adoptive Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bewley, 234 Wunder Street, Reading, PA 19602
- Joyce Cummings, President, Bradford County Adoptive Parents, RD #3, Box 223, Columbia Cross Roads, PA 16914 (717)596-3370
- Ms. Sandra Ahner, Box 139, Ashfield, PA 18212 (215)377-5628
- FCVN/Open Door Society, c/o Pat Sexton, 1835 Troxell Street, Allentown, PA 18103
- Mrs. Susan Elbert, WHAPG - NE Pennsylvania, 92 Naungola Road, RD #4, Mountain Top, PA 18707
- Mrs. Harold Denny, 1021 Lindberg Avenue, Stroudsburg, PA 18360 (717)424-1462
- Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kasebier, 64 Fox Gap Avenue, Bangor, PA 18013
- CAAP, Jane Nurse, 85 West Tioga Street, Tunkhannock, PA 18657
- Vic and Nancy Reilly, RD #2, Ridgeview Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901
- Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group, Box 836, Doylestown, PA 18901
- Mrs. Sharon Ames, COAC of Chester County Inc., 114 Governors Circle, Downingtown, PA 19335 (215)269-7094
- Ms. Kate Delosso, 106 North Morgan Avenue, Havertown, PA 19083
- The Adoptive Parents Group of Delaware County, c/o Mrs. Rosemary Hughes, 904 West Dale Avenue, Swarthmore, PA 19081
- Ms. Marcia Siegel, Parents and Adopted Children Together, 20 Lansdowne Court, Lansdowne, PA 19050 (215)259-3934
- Brenda Rowntree, Audobon Adoption Referral Service, 715 Pondview Drive, Audobon, PA 19403 (215)631-1057
- Mr. and Mrs. Will Liegel, Together for Adoptive Children (TAC), 226 Susquehanna Avenue, Lansdale, PA 19446 (215)368-8913
- COAC of Southwestern Pennsylvania, c/o Mike Anderson, 224 South Aiken Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15206
- Families for Black Children, c/o Ms. Ann Tucker, 1653 Laketon Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15221 (412)371-1328
- Peg McElhose, Secretary, PACO - West, 3837 Sardis Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15239
- Debbie Ellefson/PACO, 764 Black Hawk Road, Beaver Falls, PA 15010
- Carrinne Vogel, RD #4, Blackberry Hill Lane, Butler, PA 16001
- Tri-State Area POA, c/o Mr. David Jones, 8571 Lake Pleasant Road, Erie, PA 16509 (814)866-6280
- Mr. Ron Alexander, Erie County Foster Parent, RD #5, Waterford, PA 16441 (814)796-4707
- PACO Lawrence County, Gina Williams, 419 Sumner Avenue, New Castle, PA 16101
- Violet Brown, PACO Mercer County, RD #7, Box 7092, Mercer, PA 16137 (412)662-3058, (412)342-5596
- Ms. Sallie Bradley, Pennsylvania State Foster Parents Association, Chairperson for Adoption, RD #1, Harrison City Road, Trafford, PA 15085 (412)373-0744
- Armstrong & Indiana Counties COAC, c/o Mr. and Mrs. Walt Slomski, RD #2, Box 13-A, Marion Center, PA 15759
- Martha Ross, Three Rivers Adoption Council, Investment Bldg., Room 803, 239 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222 (412)471-8722
- Parent Adoptive Group of Northwestern Pa/OURS, Donna Smith, Box 263, Kane Run Road RD 1, Oil City, PA 16301

RHODE ISLAND - Elaine Cassinelli/NACAC, 55 Overlook Road, Narragansett, RI 02882 (401)789-6243

SOUTH CAROLINA - Joyce Thompson/NACAC, 1453 Hammond, North Augusta, SC 29841 (803)279-4184

SOUTH DAKOTA - David Shisler/NACAC, 715 Buchanan, Pierre, SD 57501 (605)224-5027

- Aberdeen Area OURS, Cindy Lowald, 1720 Marshall Road, Aberdeen, SD 57401
- OURS of Sioux Falls/SD, Judith Roberts, 2201 Tammarac Drive, Sioux Falls, SD 57103

TENNESSEE - Linda Russell/NACAC, Memphis, COAC, P.O. Box 18951, Memphis, TN 38118 (901)895-6740

- OURS of Middle Tennessee, Dan and Joan Stallings, 742 Albar Drive, Nashville, TN 37221

TEXAS - Clara Flores/COAC State Coord., Rt. 2, Box 177-F, Edinburg, TX 78539

- Mary Dunn/COAC Coord. 3406 Princeton, Midland, TX 79703
- Dorka Smith/COAC, 5221 SW 37th, Amarillo, TX 79109
- Chris Hoelscher/COAC, 304 Monaco, Cedar Park, TX 78613
- Pat Crabtree/COAC, P.O. Box U, Odem, TX 78370 (Coastal Bend Branch)
- Theresa Krimm/COAC, P.O. Box 141199, Dept 366, Dallas, TX 75214
- Gaylen Gregory/COAC, 3816 Winfield, Ft. Worth, TX 76109
- Cherly Lewis/COAC, P.O. Box 2571 Houston, TX 77252
- Gary Clark/COAC, 1007 Country Club, Mission, TX 78572 (McAllen Branch)
- Dee Wilson/COAC, P.O. Box 275, Holliday, TX 76366 (North Texas Branch)
- Mary B. Dunn/COAC, 3406 Princeton, Midland, TX 79703 (Permean Basin Branch)
- Esther Chavers/COAC, 714 E. Whitehouse Circle, Harlinger, TX 78550 (Rio Grande Branch)
- Dale Olson/COAC, P.O. Box 3472, San Angelo, TX 75902
- Mary Jane McCormick/COAC, 26 Las Palmas Drive, Zapata, TX 78076 (Southwest Border Branch)
- N. Texas OURS For Adoption, Candice Rea, 5317 Buckner Dr., Flower Mound, TX 75028
- Panhandle-South Plains OURS, John Reed, 8004 Quinton, Lubbock, TX 79424
- Open Arms: Houston Area Adoption Support Group/OURS, Stephanie Jagot, 2006 Northshore Drive, Kingwood, TX 77339
- Potpourri Families Through Adoption, Genee McFadden, 3704 Kriss Drive, Longview, TX 75604

UTAH - Huntley Thatcher/NACAC, 218 Bayview Drive, Farmington, UT 84025 (801)451-2710
- Families Involved in Adoption, c/o Sharon Stevens, Box 16477, Salt Lake City, UT 84116 (801)532-1898
- HOPE of Utah, c/o Carolyn Schroeder, 368 East 500 N., American Fork, UT (801)756-7059
- FACT, LDS Social Services, c/o Tom Cranner, 349 12th Street, Ogden, UT
- Families Involved in Adoption, 2144 South Highland Drive, Suite 150, Salt Lake City, UT 84106
- HOPE of Utah, Inc., P.O. Box 1146, Provo, UT 84601
- Families of Adopted Children Together, P.O. Box 9162, Ogden, UT 84409 (801)731-1672
- Adoptive Support Group of Utah, Inc., 2835 So. Main, Salt Lake City, UT 84115
- Mary Lnes, Utah Dept. Social Services, 150 West North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 (801)533-7132

VERMONT - Bonnie Oakman/NACAC, Woodstock Avenue, Rutland, VT 05701 (802)775-2653
- Maureen Thompson, Vermont Dept. of Social and Rehab. Services, 103 S. Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 (802)241-2150

VIRGINIA - Ruth Finley/NACAC, Route 6, Box 211, Richmond, VA 23231 (804)795-5655
- Mrs. Roy Seward, 7649 Cherokee Road, Richmond, VA 23225
- Ms. Laurel McClurken, 120 Dorset Court, Charlottesville, VA 22901
- Ms. Sandra Daniels, FAITH, P.O. Box 7302, Roanoke, VA 24019
- Mrs. Ellen Bierlein, COAC Tidewater, 3733 Harton Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23452
- Prince William COAC, c/o Mrs. Teresa March, 7815 Old Centreville Road, Manassas, VA 22111
- Mrs. Jacqueline Althoff, 934 Mountain Run Lake Road, Culpepper, VA 22701
- Fairfax County Adoptive Parents, Janet Hale, 3212 Burgundy Road, Alexandria, VA 22303
- Mrs. Kay Roscoe, Secretary-Tres., Rappahannock Adoptive Parents, Rt. 3, Box 703, Fredericksburg, VA 22401
- Shenandoah Valley Adoptive Parents, c/o Linda Lemay, 548 Massanutten Heights, Woodstock, VA 22664
- Isle of Wight, Foster and Adoptive Organization, Ms. Aileen G. Edwards, P.O. Box 173, Smithfield, VA 23430
- COAC, 7008 Hadlow Drive, Springfield, VA 22152 (703)620-2180 (Serves Metropolitan D.C. including Md. and Va. suburbs)
- OURS of Tidewater, Lt. Jay and Ann Carrizales, 428 Becton Place, Virginia Beach, VA 23452
- Adoptive Parents of Fairfax County, 8833 Burbank Road, Annandale, VA 22003 (703)978-1577

WASHINGTON - Lillian Thogersen/NACAC, 22198 61st Street, Bothell, WA 98011 (206)481-8034
- Washington OURS, Ray and Alice Dehart, 735 Bickleton Highway, Goldendale, WA 98620
- Mary Ellen Haley/NACAC, 2806 34th Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98144 (206)722-2806

WEST VIRGINIA - Sally Preston/NACAC, 1032 Valley Road, Charleston, WV 25302 (304)345-1958
- Northern West Virginia COAC, P.O. Box 1937, Fairmont, WV 26554
- Parkersburg Adoptive Parents Association (Wood & Wirt Counties), c/o Bill Cain, 4827 First Avenue, Parkersburg, WV 26

WISCONSIN - Kay Pena/NACAC, 3409 North 46th Street, Milwaukee, WI 53216 (414)442-5278
- OURS of W. Wisconsin, Debbie Timmerman, 433 N. Wasson Lane, River Falls, WI 54022
- OURS of North Central Wisconsin, Warren and Virginia Heckert, Rt. 2, Box 155, Hatley, WI 54440
- Greater Milwaukee OURS, Sharon Crusniak, 4916 N. 106 Street, Milwaukee, WI 53225
- Northeastern Wisconsin OURS, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Troyer, 133 Apple Tree Ct., Green Bay, WI 54302
- OURS of S. Central Wisconsin, Mary Ann Fix, 1801 Kenneth Street, Madison, WI 53711
- Coulee Region OURS, Sue Shackley, 216 N. Water Street, Sparta, WI 54656

WYOMING - Wyoming OURS, Mary Patrick, 1654 Bellair Drive, Casper, WY 82604

6. State Adoption Exchanges and Photolisting Books (Waiting Children and Families)

List of exchanges operated at the State level, many of which print photolisting books picturing children waiting for adoptive homes:

Alabama Adoption Resource Exchange
Division of Adoptions, 64 North Union Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 (205)832-6150

Alaska Adoption Exchange
Pouch H-05, Juneau, AK 99811

Arizona Adoption Exchange Book
P.O. Box 17951, Tucson, AZ 85731

Arizona State Adoption Registry
Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, P.O. Box 6123-940-A, Phoenix, AZ 95005 (602)255-3981

Arkansas Social Services
P.O. Box 1437, Little Rock, AR 72203

Adoption Resource and Referral Center
State Department of Social Services, 744 P Street, Mail Station 19-14, Sacramento, CA 95814 (916)323-0591

Colorado State Adoption Pool
1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 (303)839-2731

Colorado Adoption Resource Registry (CARR)
State Department of Social Services, Division of Family and Children, Svs., 1575 Sherman Street, Denver, CO 80203 (303)866-5275

Rocky Mountain Adoption Exchange
5350 Leetsdale Drive, Suite 10, Denver, CO 80222 (303)333-0845 (Serves CO, UT, NM, WY, and SD)

Connecticut Adoption Resource Exchange
170 Sigourney Street, Hartford, CT 06105 (203)566-8742

Florida Adoption Exchange
1317 Winewood Blvd., B-8 Room 200, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904)487-2383

Florida's Waiting Children
Children, Youth, and Families Program Office, 1317 Winewood Boulevard, Tallahassee, FL 32301 (904)488-1060

Georgia State Adoption Exchange
618 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA 30308 (404)894-4466

Central Adoption Exchange of Hawaii
P.O. Box 339, Honolulu, HI 96809 (808)548-7502

Adoption Information Center of Illinois
201 North Wells, Suite 1342, Chicago, IL 60606 (800)572-2390 (toll free for Illinois residents),
(312)346-1516 (out of state)

Indiana Adoption Resource Exchange
141 South Meridan Street, 6th Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46225 (317)232-5613

Iowa Adoption Exchange
Iowa Department of Social Services, Hoover State Office Building, Des Moines, IA 50319 (515)281-5658

Kansas Adoption Resource Exchange
Smith-Wilson Building, 2700 West 6th Street, Topeka, KS 66606 (913)296-4661

Kentucky Adoption Resource Exchange
Kentucky Department for Human Resources, Bureau for Social Services, 275 East Main Street - 6W, Frankfort, KY 40621
(502)564-2136

Louisiana Adoption Resource Exchange
P.O. Box 3318, Baton Rouge, LA 70821 (504)342-4041

Maine-Vermont Exchange
Department of Human Services, 221 State Street, Augusta, ME 04333 (207)289-2971

Maryland Adoption Resource Exchange
(MARE), 300 West Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201 (301)576-5313, Ext. 313

Massachusetts Adoption Resource Exchange
(MARE), 25 West Street, 3rd Floor, Boston, MA 02111 (301)451-1460

Michigan Adoption Resource Exchange
P.O. Box 30037, Department of Social Services, Lansing, MI 48909 (513)373-3513

Black Family Registry
P.O. Box 35325, Detroit, MI 48235 (313)272-1980 (Photo Listing is: Kid Notebook)

Minnesota's Waiting Children
17917 Cynthia Drive, Minnetonka, MN 55343 (612)474-7566

Minnesota State Adoption Exchange
Social Services Division, Bureau of Social Services, Centennial Office Bldg., 4th Floor, St. Paul, MN 55155 (612)296-3
(Photo Listing is: Minnesota's Waiting Children, 17917 Cynthia Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55345 (612)474-7566)

Mississippi Adoption Resource Exchange
Social Services Department, P.O. Box 352, Jackson, MS 39205 (601)354-0341

Adoption Exchange of Missouri
P.O. Box 88, Jefferson City, MO 65103 (314)751-4832

Nebraska Adoption Resource Exchange
Division of Human Services, Department of Social Services, P.O. Box 95026, Lincoln, NE 68509 (402)471-3121

Nevada Adoption Exchange
Welfare Division, 251 Jeanell Drive, Carson City, NV 89710 (702)885-3023

New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services
Adoption Resource Exchange, 1 South Montgomery Street CN717, Trenton, NJ 08625 (609)292-0806

New Mexico Adoption Exchange
New Mexico Human Services Department, Social Services Division, P.O. Box 2348, Sante Fe, NM 87504 (505)827-5109

New York State Adoption Service
40 North Pearl Street, Albany, NY 12243 (212)488-5290 (in New York City), (800)342-3715 (in State), (518)474-9582 (out of state)

North Carolina Adoption Resource Exchange
325 North Salisbury Street, Raleigh, NC 27611 (919)733-3801

Adoption Listing Service of Ohio
4100 Franklin Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44118 (216)961-3527

Ohio Adoption Resource Exchange
Bureau of Children's Placement Services, Division of Family and Children's Services, 30 East Broad Street, 30th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215 (614)466-8510 (Photo Listing is: Adoption Listing Service of Ohio, 3737 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124 (216)292-2670

Pennsylvania Adoption Cooperative Effort
(PACE), P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA 17105 (717)787-5010

Adoption Center of Delaware Valley
1218 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107 (214)925-0200 (Serves PA, NJ, DE, VA, MD, WV, and DC)

Ocean State Adoption Resource Exchange
610 Mt. Pleasant Avenue, Bldg. 11, Providence, RI 02908 (401)277-3444

South Carolina Seedlings
Route 5, Box 242-A, Pickens, SC 29671 (803)878-4500

Tennessee Adoption Resource Exchange
Tennessee Department of Human Services, 111-19 7th Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37203 (615)741-5936

Texas Adoption Resource Exchange
P.O. Box 2960--Mail Code 538-A, Austin, TX 78769 (512)835-0440, Ext. 2855 and 2860

Division of Children, Youth and Families
150 W. North Temple, Salt Lake City, UT 84110 (801)533-7361

Adoption Resource Exchange of Virginia (AREVA)
Blair Building, 8007 Discovery Drive, Richmond, VA 23288 (804)281-9149

Washington Adoption Resource Exchange (WARE)
Department of Social and Health Services, Mail Stop 08 41-C, Olympia, WA 98504 (206)753-0965

West Virginia Adoption Exchange
P.O. Box 2942, Charleston, WV 25330 (304)346-1062

Wisconsin Adoption Resource Exchange
P.O. Box 7851, Madison, WI 53707 (608)233-8026

Wyoming Adoption Exchange and Listing Services
Division of Public Assistance and Social Services, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, WY 82002 (303)777-6075

7. Infertility Problems

These organizations provide counseling to infertile couples, and help them understand alternatives such as adoption. Resolve has chapters in various parts of the U.S. The American Fertility Society has member physicians in many locations.

Resolve, Inc.
P.O. Box 474, Belmont, MA 02178

American Fertility Society
1231 Magnolia Avenue, Suite 201, Birmingham, AL 35256 (205)251-9764

8. Single Parents

This is an information and networking service for single adults who wish to adopt.

Committee for Single Adoptive Parents
P.O. Box 15084, Chevy Chase, MD 20815 (202)966-6367

9. Interracial and Intercultural Support Groups

The following organizations give support to interracial and intercultural families by encouraging communication, organizing support groups, sponsoring research and educational programs, and/or publishing newsletters:

Biracial Family Network
P.O. Box 489, Chicago, IL 60653-0489 (312)667-5505

Biracial Family Resource Center
Paula Phillips, Director, 800 Riverside, Dr., Suite 5G, New York, NY 10032 (212)928-7601

INTERace
Carmen Becker, President, P.O. Box 7143, Flushing, NY 11352 (718)457-8099

Interracial Club of Buffalo
Mary C. Murchison-Edwords, P.O. Box 146, Amherst Brach, Buffalo, NY 14226 (716)839-5080

Interracial Family Circle
P.O. Box 53290, Washington, D.C. 20009 (301)261-9066

Interracial Family Alliance
P.O. Box 16248, Houston, TX 77222 (713)749-1211 or (713)749-7192

Interracial Families, Inc.
Dayspring Christian Center, 700 Second, Ave., Tarentum, PA 15084 (412)224-5715 (412)828-8807

I-Pride
1419 Walnut Street, Berkeley, CA 94709

Multi-Racial Families of Colorado
P.O. Box 20524, Denver, CO 80220-0524 (303)377-9438

Parents of Interracial Children (PIC)
Penny Parker, MSW, Child Saving Institute, 115 South 46th Street, Omaha, NB 68132 (402)553-6000

POLY
M.S. Leftwich, Editor, P.O. Box 475, Commerce, TX 75428

Rainbow Circle
c/o First Baptist Church, 17 Sansom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103

National Coalition to End Racism in America's Child Care System
22075 Koths Road, Taylor, MI 48180 (313)295-0257

10. Agencies and Programs for Black Adoptions

In addition to National Committee For Adoption agencies, all of which are non-discriminatory and actively seek to recruit black families, these agencies also have specialized programs to recruit black families for adoption.

One Church One Child
607 East Oakwood Blvd., Chicago, IL 60653

National Black Child Development Institute
1463 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005

National Urban League
Adoption Resource and Advocacy Center, 500 East 62nd Street, New York, NY 10021

Roxbury Children's Service
22 Elm Hill Avenue, Dorchester, MA 02121

Give Us This Day, Inc.
P.O. Box 796-2207-B, Portland Road, Newberg, OR 97132

Homes For Black Children
2340 Calvert Street, Detroit, MI 48206

Homes For Black Children
3131 East 38th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46218

Children's Home and Aid Society
1122 North Dearborn, Chicago, IL 60610 (312)238-3203

Health and Rehabilitative Services
914 West Morse Blvd., Winter Park, FL 32801 (305)629-1986

Kansas City Children's Service League
P.O. Box 1308, Kansas City, KS 66117 (913)621-2016

Women's Christian Alliance
1610-1616 North Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA 19121 (215)236-9911

Family and Children Services
2650 Olive Street, St. Louis, MO 63103 (314)371-6500

Family and Children Services
929 L Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20001 (202)289-1510

COAC Black Child Advocacy Program
875 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10001

Black Adoption Committee
1631 Kessler Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46208

Association of Black Social Workers
Child Adoption Counseling and Referral Service
271 West 125th Street, New York, NY 10027

Akiba-A Black Adoption Program
1225 Lawton Street, Akron, OH 44320 (216)379-1950

Urban League of Rhode Island, Inc.
Minority Recruitment Committee, 246 Prairie Avenue, Providence, RI 02905

Open Arms Adoption Project
P.O. Box 15254, San Francisco, CA 94115

11. Hispanic Programs

Organizations which focus on the needs of Hispanic children:

National Coalition of Hispanic Mental Health
and Human Services Organization
1015 15th Street, N.W., Suite 402, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202)638-0505

Hispanic Adoption Program
New York Council on Adoptable Children
875 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10001

Puerto Rican Association for Community Affairs, Inc.
853 Broadway, 5th Floor, New York, NY 10003

Los Angeles County Department of Adoptions
2550 West Olympic Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90006 (213)738-2367

12. Indian Native American Programs

Organizations which focus extensively on the needs of Indian children and families:

Indian Adoptive Family Circle
NM Department of Human Services, P.O. Box 2348, Santa Fe, NM 87504-2348 (505)827-4109
(In New Mexico 1-800-525-8752)

Council of Three Rivers
American Indian Center, Inc.
200 Charles Street, Dorseyville, PA 15238 (412)782-4457

Jewish Family and Children's Services
2033 North 7th Street, Phoenix, AZ 85006

13. Special Needs Children

In addition to National Committee For Adoption agencies, most of which place special needs children, the following agencies focus on placing special needs children.

AASK
(Aid to Adoption of Special Kids), 3530 Grand Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610 (415)451-1748

Children Unlimited, Inc.
P.O. Box 11463, Columbia, SC 29211 (803)799-8311

Crossroads, Inc.
7703 Normandale Road, Minneapolis, MN 55435 (612)831-5707

Medina Children's Service
TASC, 123 16th Avenue, Seattle, WA 98122 (206)324-9470

Peirce-Warwick Adoption Service
5229 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015 (202)966-2531

New York Spaulding for Children
22 West 27th Street, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10001 (212)696-9530

PLAN
P.O. Box 667, McMinnville, OR 97128 (503)472-8453

Project CAN
Family Service Centers, 2960 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33520 (813)531-0481

Spaulding For Children
P.O. Box 337, Chelsea, MI 48118 (313)475-8693

Spaulding For Children--Beech Brook
3737 Lander Road, Cleveland, OH 44124 (216)464-4445

Spaulding Midwest
1855 North Hillside, Wichita, KS 67214 (316)686-9171

Spaulding, New Jersey
36 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ 07090 (201)233-2282

Spaulding Southwest
4219 Richmond, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77027 (713)850-9707

14. Family Builders Agencies

A list of agencies affiliated with Family Builders Association specializing in the placement of special needs children:

Spaulding For Children
36 Prospect Street, Westfield, NJ 07090

Peirce-Warwick Adoption Service
5229 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20015

Spaulding For Children
P.O. Box 35325, Detroit, MI 48235

Medina Children's Services
P.O. Box 22638, Seattle, WA 98122

Children Unlimited, Inc.
P.O. Box 11463, Columbia, SC 29211

Spaulding For Children
4219 Richmond, Suite 100, Houston, TX 77027 (713)850-9707

Project CAN
2960 Roosevelt Blvd., Clearwater, FL 33520

15. Selected Intercountry Adoption Agencies

There are two types of intercountry adoptions--agency-based, in which the applicant works with a United States-based agency to facilitate the adoption, and direct, in which the applicant works directly with an orphanage or agency in the child's country of origin. Following is a list of a few of the agencies in the United States which facilitate intercountry adoptions (and the main countries they work with):

Holt International Children's Services, Inc.
P.O. Box 2880, Eugene, OR 97402 (Korea, India, Philippines, Thailand)

FCVN (Friends of Children of Various Nations
600 Gilpin Street, Denver, CO 80218 (Vietnam, Korea, India)

Children's Home Society of Minnesota
2230 Como Avenue, St. Paul, MN 55108 (612)646-6393 (Korea, Guatemala, Colombia, Mexico, India, Hong Kong)

Welcome House
P.O. Box 836, Doylestown, PA 18901 (215)245-0430 (Korea, Philippines, India, China, El Salvador, Colombia, Argentina)

Americans for International Aid and Adoption
460 North Woodward, Birmingham, MI 48011 (Korea, Costa Rica, India, Hong Kong)

Crossroads, Inc.
7703 Normandale Road, Minneapolis, MN 55435 (India, Colombia, Philippines)

International Mission of Hope
10734 Tancred Street, Denver, CO 80234 (India)

Universial Aid for Children, Inc.
8760 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Miami Shores, FL 33138 (305)754-4886

Furthermore, the following member agencies which support the National Committee For Adoption specialize in intercountry adoptions or otherwise facilitate a considerable number of intercountry adoptions:

COLORADO - Bethany Christian Services, 2150 South Bellaire, #201, Denver, CO 80222 (303)758-4484,

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA - Adoption Services Information Agency/ASIA,
7720 Alaska Aveneue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20012 (202)726-7193
-The Barker Foundation, 4545 42nd Street, N.W., #207 Washington, D.C. 20016 (202)363-7751

ILLINOIS - Bethany Christian Services, 12201 S. Harlem, Palos Heights, IL 60463 (312)361-2588

INDIANA - Bethany Christian Services, 9595 N. Whitley Dr., #210, Indianapolis, IN 46240 (317)848-9518,

LOUISIANA - Associated Catholic Charities, 1231 Prytania Street, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504)523-3755
-Children's Bureau of New Orleans, 226 Carondelet Street, #801, New Orleans, LA 70130 (504)525-2366

MASSACHUSETTS - Our Lady of Providence Center, 2112 Riverdale Street, W. Springfield, MA 01089
(413)788-7366

MICHIGAN - Bethany Christian Services, 901 Eastern Avenue, N.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49503 (616)459-6273,
1-800-BETHANY (national)
-Bethany Christian Services, Dolly Madison Office Ctr., Suite 250, 32500 Concord Drive, Madison Hghts., MI 48071
(313)588-9400

MINNESOTA - Bethany Christian Services, 421 South Main, Stillwater, MN 55082 (612)439-9603

NEW YORK - Spence-Chapin Services, 6 East 94th Street, New York, NY 10028 (212)369-0300,

NORTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 25 Reed Street, P.O. Box 15436,
Asheville, NC 28813-0436 (704)272-7146

OHIO - Bethany Christian Services, Walter L. Mitchell Bldg., #340, 1655 W. Market Street, Akron, OH 44313
(216)867-2362

SOUTH CAROLINA - Bethany Christian Services, 300 University Ridge #114, Greenville, SC 29601
(803)235-2273

TEXAS - Catholic Social Service, 1025 S. Jennings, #310, Fort Worth, TX 76104 (817)877-1231
-The Edna Gladney Home, 2300 Hemphill Street, Forth Worth, TX 76110 (817)926-3304, 1-800-772-2740 (Texas only),
1-800-433-2922 (other states)
-Homes of St. Mark, 1302 Marshall, Houston, TX 77006 (713)522-2800, 1-800-392-3807 (Texas only)

WISCONSIN - Bethany Christian Services, W255 N499 Grandview Blvd., #101, Waukesha, WI 53187
(414)547-6557

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16. Intercountry Adoption Groups

Following is a list of a few of the many parent support groups providing information and encouragement in the field of intercountry adoption. The Organization for a United Response (OURS) provides the most extensive information through its excellent magazine; there are over seventy OURS chapters throughout the country. Each of the groups listed below publishes a newsletter; subscriptions may be included with membership fees or may be purchased separately.

Organization for a United Response
3307 Hwy. 100 North, Suite 203, Minneapolis, MN 55422 (612)535-4829, Magazine: News of OURS

Families Adopting Children Everywhere
P.O. Box 102, Bel Air, MD 21014, Newsletter: FACE Facts

Holt International Families
P.O. Box 2880, Eugene, OR 97402, Newsletter: HI Families

Welcome House Adoptive Parents Group
P.O. Box 265, Doylestow, PA 18901, Newsletter: The Welcomer

Families Adoption Inter-Racially
6267 West Walbrook Drive, San Jose, CA 95129, Newsletter: FAIR

International Concerns Committee for Children
911 Cypress Drive, Boulder, CO 80303 (303)494-8333

17. Groups Interested in Foster Care and Adoption

These act as clearinghouses, provide publications, and resource materials:

Child Welfare League of America
67 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003 (212)254-7410

North America Council on Adoptable Children
810 18th St., N.W., #703, Washington, D.C. 20006

National Conference of Catholic Charities
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., #307, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)785-2757

Administration for Children, Youth and Families
Office of Human Development Services, DHHS, Washington, D.C. 20201

Nationa Association of Social Workers
7981 Eastern Ave., Silver Spring, MD 20910 (301)565-0333

National Court Appointed Special Advocates Association
60 Lafayette St., 8th Floor, New York, NY 10013 (212)233-0498

National League Resource Center for Child Advocacy and Protection
American Bar Association, 1800 M St., N.W., S-200, Washington, D.C. 20036

National Conference of Catholic Charities
1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 307, Washington, D.C. 20036 (202)785-2757

National Association of Homes for Children
P.O. Box 1459, Millbrook, NY 12545-9696 (914)677-3285

18. Search Groups

These organizations help adoptive children and biological parents locate each other:

CUB - Concerned United Birthparents
595 Central Ave., Dover, NH 03820 (603)749-3744

ALMA - Adoptee's Liberty Movement Association
P.O. Box 154, Washington Bridge Station, New York, NY 10033 (212)581-1568

Triadoption Library, Inc.
c/o Mary Jo Rillera, P.O. Box 638, Westminster, CA 92684

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SURVEY OF STATE ACTIVITY REGARDING SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD

by William L. Pierce, Ph.D.

Dr. Pierce is President of the National Committee For Adoption, Inc., a Washington, D.C., organization concerned with the issues of adoption, services to infertile couples, and pregnancy counseling and maternity services for women. The National Committee For Adoption is a research and educational organization that conducts a variety of surveys on topics related to its fields of interest. The information discussed in this survey was gathered in large part by Ione J. Simpson, M.S.W., Director for Public Policy and Professional Practice of the National Committee For Adoption.

"Surrogate motherhood" is not a novel concept. Whether it involves a stand-in who becomes pregnant as a result of physical intercourse, as in the Biblical story of Hagar, or more modern versions involving artificial insemination, the results are essentially the same. A surrogate takes the place of a woman who is unable to conceive or unable to carry a child to term.

Informal surrogate arrangements, either of the sort typified by the story of Hagar where the goal was a son to carry on the line, or other arrangements whereby close friends or relatives agreed to provide a child for another, have existed in many countries and cultures. It is only when those arrangements lose their informal nature, either because it is necessary to provide a child with certain legal status or it is necessary to legally arrange for the payment of money to the woman and others who are involved in a surrogate arrangement, that such arrangements are of interest to policymakers, including legislators.

Background

Payment in connection with the transfer of a child, or "baby-selling," has been a matter of public concern in the U.S. for several decades. However, it was not until 1955 — when the first major congressional investigation, conducted by Sen. Estes Kefauver, was held on interstate adoption practices — that a close look was taken at a commercialized dealing in children. Until that time, despite persistent reports of baby-selling, including reports that one could have a child "commissioned" if one dealt with organized crime figures, no attempt was made to control the traffic in children.

The 1955 Kefauver hearings were instrumental in focusing attention on the lack of protections for children that existed in many states, as well as on the federal level. They also demonstrated, even in that time when there was no large disparity between couples who wanted to adopt healthy infants and healthy infants who needed to be adopted, that at least some desperate people were willing to purchase children. And those hearings confirmed that prostitutes were being used essentially as surrogates. One witness reported that a prostitute was about to place her third child, for pay, through a baby-selling operation.[1]

The 1955 hearings record stated that in 34 states there was no criminal law against baby-selling.[2] To deal with that problem, legislation was introduced in the 84th Congress to make unlawful certain commercial dealing in minor children (S. 1123 and S. 2281). Although that legislation was not enacted, the attention that the Kefauver hearings received stimulated states to examine their statutes and to enact legislation aimed at limiting the traffic in children. By 1984, when there was another of the perennial investigations of abuses in adoption, it was reported that only South Carolina still lacked legislation making baby-selling a crime. And South Carolina remedied that situation by enacting legislation.

Advocates of surrogate motherhood

One person, Michigan attorney Noel P. Keane, is largely responsible for the emergence of surrogate-parenting enterprises as a legal issue. His 1981 book tells how he got interested: A couple with a fertility problem came to him in 1976. The husband said, "Adoption leaves me cold." He told Keane, "Maybe it's egotistical but I want my own child." The husband had the idea of hiring someone to be impregnated, through artificial insemination, with his sperm. He and his wife would then raise the child. Keane was fascinated with the idea.[3] Nearly 10 years later, he still is. After his book, numerous press interviews, and a highly publicized drama involving a surrogate arrangement that went sour (the surrogate's husband was identified as the biological father of a child in the midst of a Phil Donahue television show), Keane is clearly the best-known advocate of surrogate parenting enterprises in the United States.

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[1] Hearings before the U.S. Senate Subcommittee to Investigate Juvenile Delinquency, pursuant to S.Res. 62, "Juvenile Delinquency (Interstate Adoption Practices)," p.11 (July 15-16, 1955).

[2] Ibid at 65.

[3] N. Keane & Dennis L. Breo, The Surrogate Mother, Everest House, pp. 29-30 (1981).

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Keane, with his book, his advocacy for the practice, and his involvement with legislation in Michigan that would allow surrogate arrangements, has apparently become the nation's first attorney with a practice limited to surrogates. In a *Kalamazoo* (Michigan) *Gazette* story, Keane said he devotes "about 100 percent" of his practice to surrogate parenting.[4] The extent of his enthusiasm is evident from this statement from the *Gazette* story: "I like to say that Jesus Christ is the first surrogate-born man."

Apart from Keane, the other well-known advocate for surrogate arrangements is Lori B. Andrews, an attorney with the American Bar Foundation who is the author of *New Conceptions*.[5]

Opponents of surrogate arrangements

Opposition to surrogate parenting has been widespread, both in the United States and abroad. Among U.S. professional organizations, both the Child Welfare League of America, Inc., and the National Committee For Adoption, Inc. (NCFA), have surveyed their membership about surrogate arrangements. The NCFA survey, which included results from all of its member agencies, indicated overwhelming opposition to surrogate-parenting arrangements. As a result, the association in 1984 passed the following policy statement:

> "Surrogate mothering describes a woman's conceiving a child by artificial insemination by donor, carrying it to term, and relinquishing it to the sperm donor after birth in accordance with a preconception agreement. Usually the sperm donor's wife will adopt the child after the surrogate mother relinquishes it.
>
> "The National Committee For Adoption opposes surrogate mothering as a method of obtaining a child and is strongly of the opinion that the practice should be outlawed in those states where it is not already illegal.
>
> "Licensed adoption agencies should not participate in surrogate mothering with the following exception: If a potential surrogate mother and potential adoptive parents seek the assistance of an adoption agency, counseling services should be offered to them but the agency should not participate in the process if the adoptive parents and the potential surrogate mother persist in pursuing this course.
>
> "The National Committee For Adoption continues to support building stronger and happier families through the adoption option, provided that the adoption is effected through a licensed agency, guaranteeing confidentiality and the highest professional standards of practice. So called surrogate mothering entails legal and moral problems which affect children and parents adversely and divert attention from the need of children to have permanent, stable and secure homes and families."

Procreative technologies

Most discussions of surrogate parenting, however, have been in the wider context of alternative procreative technologies. This is true in Europe as well as in the U.S.

In Europe, the most intensive examination of these subjects was conducted in the United Kingdom, where the Committee of Inquiry into Human Fertilization and Embryology was established in July, 1982. In July, 1984, the Committee's Chairman, Dame Mary Warnock, presented the Committee's report to Parliament. Although the Warnock Commission was tolerant of or ambivalent about several of the alternative procreative technologies, it unequivocally called for the outlawing of surrogate parenting. The Committee stated:

> "We recommend that legislation be introduced to render criminal the creation or the operation in the United Kingdom of agencies whose purposes include the recruitment of women for surrogate preganancy or making arrangements for individuals or couples who wish to utilize the services of a carrying mother; such legislation should be wide enough to include both profit and non-profit making organisations. We further recommend that the legislation be sufficiently wide to render criminally liable the actions of professionals and others who knowingly assist in the establishment of a surrogate pregnancy."[6]

In the United States, the House of Representatives' Committee on Science and Technology, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, held hearings on August 9, 1984, on procreative technologies. Among those testifying along lines that favor surrogate parenting was Lori Andrews. Typical of those who oppose surrogate parenting was Richard A. McCormick, Kennedy Institute of Ethics, Georgetown University. McCormick sketched out the dimensions of the values at stake in procreative technologies in terms of the meaning of the family; the meaning of self-identity; the meaning of sexuality and marriage; and the sanctity of individual human life. He argued that where there is a matter of "*individual* benefit versus *institutional* risk of harm," the latter ought to take precedence. Using that approach, McCormick opposed surrogate arrangements and stood by the stance on procreative technologies taken by the Ethics Advisory Board of the former Department of Health, Education and Welfare.[7]

Although nothing has happened to change McCormick's mind, the continued interest in alternative procreative technologies has centered legislatively on surrogate parenting as the most technologically simple of these alternatives. Since artificial insemination by donor can be accomplished with equipment so mundane as to be found in an ordinary kitchen, those who are interested in alternatives for infertile couples or others who may wish to have a baby conclude, quite correctly, that the major obstacle is lack of clear legal authority to set up such arrangements and a means to effect legal adoption of the resulting child.

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[4] John Temple, "Attorney Wages Battle to Keep Surrogate Parenting Legal in State," Kalamazoo Gazette, p. A-3 (1984).

[5] L. Andrews, New Conceptions, St. Martin's Press (1984).

[6] U.K. Department of Health and Social Security, Report of the Committee of Inquiry Into Human Fertilization and Embryology, p. 47, Cmnd. 9314, London (July, 1984).

[7] Hearings before House Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight (testimony of McCormick), pp. 4–5 (August 9, 1984).

In terms of reproductive alternatives, the general public — at least as represented in data reported in a recent magazine article — ranks surrogate motherhood as the least popular.[4] Only 14 percent of respondents said they would try it. Forty-eight percent said they would try artificial insemination or in vitro approaches. But the winner was adoption — 84 percent said this would be their option.

To date, surrogate arrangements have not been legalized by any state, nor has any bill been signed into law that specifically prohibits these arrangements. The surveys of the National Committee For Adoption indicate that there is activity related to surrogates in 21 states and the District of Columbia. A detailed discussion of those developments follows. By way of summary, it should be noted that discussions in Alabama, D.C., Kentucky, and Oklahoma are centered on prohibiting surrogates. In two states, Missouri and Ohio, there has been consideration of the issue, but a neutral stance has resulted. In the following 15 states, however, activity has focused on allowing surrogate arrangements: Alaska, California, Connecticut, Hawaii, Illinois, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, and Virginia. Michigan is the only state where there are strong advocates, legislatively and otherwise, on both sides of the issue.

PATTERNS IN LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

While there is a significant amount of variation between the bills introduced to date, certain patterns are obvious as one looks at the features of those proposals.

Parties to a surrogate agreement

Although the rationale for most of the surrogate legislation is to provide children for couples with proven infertility, a review of the existing legislative proposals indicates that this rationale has rarely been followed. In very few instances is the sperm donor limited to the husband of an infertile wife. Indeed, it seems clear that paid sperm donors may be used to inseminate surrogates and the resulting child may be transferred by agreement to a single parent of either sex or a married couple. In most instances, legislation provides that the woman who plans to adopt the child from the surrogate should be "the spouse of a natural father." However, sufficient ambiguity exists in the bills to allow for single persons to adopt.

Few limits are set in respect to the surrogate. Generally, she must be 18 years of age or more, but not even this age limit is imposed in five of the bills.

Provisions of the surrogate parenthood agreement

Central to most of the bills is a detailed list of provisions that must be in a surrogate parenthood agreement. At a glance, it may be seen that a few standard — and obvious — provisions are repeated in most of the bills. Pre-insemination medical and psychological screening are required of the surrogate. The surrogate is required to follow the instructions of the inseminating physician as well as the physician managing the pregnancy. Abortion of the baby is provided for, in the interests of the mother's health, in several of the proposals. Only in the Minnesota bill, however, is the abortion language specifically worded so as to limit it to an abortion required to save the life of the mother. This is undoubtedly included because of strong anti-abortion sentiment in Minnesota. There is rather equal treatment, medically speaking, of the sperm donor. He, too, must submit to medical (but usually not psychological) screening.

Only one bill — that of South Carolina — provides for partial payment to the surrogate if she miscarries after the fifth month of pregnancy. In most other instances, payment is not provided unless a live child is provided for the sperm donor or other adoptive parent. Several bills contain a provision allowing the surrogate to retain the fee and to retain custody of the child if both the sperm donor and any other party to the agreement die prior to the birth of the child.

Fees for the surrogate are, in general, paid to a trust or put into escrow, in whole or in part, by those who wish to obtain custody of the child. The amount of the fee is limited in only one state, New Jersey, where it cannot exceed $10,000. In several other states, the fee is to be "not less than $10,000" and no specific ceiling is stipulated. Reportedly, attempts to set any ceiling in early legislative attempts to legalize surrogate arrangements drew fire from surrogates; thus, most subsequent drafts merely set minimums that must be paid. In only one instance is there any provision in a bill for a penalty if one violates the fee limitations (if any) in the law. That provision, contained in the South Carolina bill, specifies that the violation is neither a felony nor a misdemeanor and is punishable by a fine no more than $1,000 and 31 days' imprisonment. The lack of any meaningful sanction in the one bill to mention a penalty for noncompliance with the fee ceiling raises serious concerns about its effect.

Qualifications to obtain a child

Although six states would provide that an independent evaluation (or home study, similar to that required if a couple wishes to adopt a child) be done of those seeking to adopt a surrogate's child, the final decision as to the fitness of the prospective parent or parents is not left to the social worker or other professional conducting the evaluation. It is left to the court, which may override the recommendations that a person or a couple is unfit to be a parent.

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[4] Psychology Today, "A Womb of One's Own" (January, 1985).

Activities after insemination

Several bills require that the court with jurisdiction be notified, usually by the inseminating physician, when a pregnancy is verified following insemination. This notification, in turn, usually triggers a number of actions aimed at legitimizing the child and terminating the parental rights of the surrogate prior to birth. Generally, the sperm donor must acknowledge paternity; the surrogate and her husband, if any, must relinquish the child; and — in a few cases — a kind of "interim custody" is provided to the sperm donor six months after fertilization. At this point, some proposals give the sperm donor and his wife, if any, effective control over the medical management of the pregnancy.

Only in South Carolina's bill is there a stipulation that all involved in the surrogate enterprise, including the attorneys for both biological parties, be informed that there is a confirmed pregnancy.

Activities after the birth of a child

Once the child has been born, several activities are mandated in the five state bills that are most detailed — those of Connecticut, Hawaii, Michigan, New York and South Carolina. The first action that is required, in most instances, is mandatory testing of the baby and of other parties, to help determine paternity. Although four different types of tests are specifically mentioned — human leukocyte antigens (HLA), red cell antigens, red cell isoenzymes, and serum proteins — only the HLA test is mandated.[9]

The next step generally indicated in the bills is to file with the court a notice that the child appears to be the child of the sperm donor, triggering the provision requiring the court to order termination of the parental rights of the surrogate and her husband, if any. The time frame given the court varies. One bill calls for the order to be filed 10 days after the court has been given notice. Five states would set the time at 14 days after notice, one at 20 days, and three at 45 days.

In only five of the legislative proposals is there any provision for written notice to the surrogate and her husband, if any, of the date on which the judge will enter an order terminating their parental rights so that objections to the order may be raised. In all instances, the provision stipulates that they be given notice not later than four days after the birth of the child.

Although objections can be raised to the termination of their rights, essentially only two bases appear to have any standing in the legislative proposals. The first is clear and convincing evidence that the sperm donor is not the biological father of the child. The second is that the adoption would not be in the child's best interests.

Only South Carolina has a provision that a final decree of surrogate adoption is not subject to collateral attack for any reason after a period of one year following its issue.

Issues of confidentiality

Not surprisingly, the issue of confidentiality of birth records and the ability of adults who have been adopted through surrogate arrangements to learn the identity of their biological parents is addressed in several of the legislative proposals. As with normal adoption,[10] concerns about confidentiality are central.

With the exception of California and Michigan, where search groups and "open records" advocates appear to have been actively involved in efforts to affect the legislative drafting process, confidentiality is provided for in the bills.

It is of interest to note that in Kansas, where one can currently obtain a copy of one's original birth certificate upon request at the age of majority, confidentiality has been assured those who adopt a child born to a surrogate. In fact, the same legislative committee that drafted the bill providing confidentiality for records related to surrogate adoption rejected calls to offer similar confidentiality for traditional adoption records.

Enforceability of the laws

Although, as stated above, there are some penalties prescribed for violating the fee-ceiling provisions of the various legislative proposals, there is a penalty mandated for failure to comply with the law, per se, in only one instance. One version of a bill introduced in Michigan would provide for a fine up to $10,000 and imprisonment of less than 31 days. In most instances, violating the law is a misdemeanor. Only in Hawaii's bill is there a felony penalty, for a second offense. In those jurisdictions requiring judicial notification of the surrogate relationship, a court's contempt power provides an additional potential enforcement tool.

Without sufficient sanctions, however, it seems unlikely that there would be much concern about complying with the requirements of surrogate legislation, even if enacted.

Summary

Currently, the legislation that has been drafted to authorize surrogate arrangements seems inadequate in most respects. It does not limit the arrangement to those infertile couples who are allegedly the primary beneficiaries. It provides inadequate protections for the child to be transferred from the custody of the surrogate, in that effective screening of prospective adoptive parents is not required. And, finally, the legislation is generaly so poorly or so loosely drafted that it would provide numerous loopholes for those who might be tempted to exploit a new, commercialized area of human experience — pregnancy, childbearing, and parenthood. Even those who are advocates of legalizing surrogate arrangements should press for more carefully drafted legislation; the best of the existing bills falls far short of what is required in the basic, "regulatory" sense.

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[9] For a detailed discussion on the reliabilty of HLA testing and its legal significance, see Kolko, "Admissibility of HLA Test Results to Determine Paternity," 9 FLR 4009 (1983).

[10] See Pierce, "Survey of State Laws and Legislation on Access to Adoption Records — 1983," 10 FLR 3035 (1984).

D. Methodology of the National Adoption Survey Conducted by the National Committee For Adoption

1. Reason for Survey

State and national adoption data are needed by health planners, policy makers, the media, budget specialists, State health and welfare officials, and adoptive parents to assess the numbers and types of adoptions occurring today. Unfortunately, 1975 was the last year for which the National Center for Social Statistics of the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare published its annual report on adoption characteristics. Currently there is no organization or department of the Federal Government designated to compile statistics about adoption. This data void has been sorely felt by those concerned with the need for accurate adoption statistics, and so the National Committee For Adoption undertook to demonstrate that such data could still be collected, although the national reporting mechanism for reporting and tabulating adoptions had fallen into disuse. It is hoped that our experience in collecting and publishing these data will again demonstrate the utility of current adoption data, the feasibility of collecting adoption data on a national scale, and encourage the reinstatement of an ongoing adoption data collection system within the federal statistical system.

2. Survey Methodology - Data Collections

Data were collected between May 1984 and June 1985 by Ione Simpson, formerly Director of Public Policy and Professional Practice at the National Committee For Adoption. Two survey questionnaires--Part I for STATE ADOPTION FACTS and Part II for SUMMARY OF STATE ADOPTION FACTS--were used in data collection. The questionnaires were published in the Journal of the Association for Vital Records and Health Statistics in order to alert knowledgeable State officials to the survey. The adoption regulations are presented in Section III A, Summary of State Adoption Regulations of this ADOPTION FACTBOOK. Section IV on "Adoption Statistics" presents tabulations of numbers and characteristics of adoptions that occurred in 1982. For many States, 1982 represents the most current data available since a frequent source of adoption data is vital statistics, which often has a time lag of several years between vital events (such as birth certificate amendments) and the tabulation of such events by States. Data were collected by mail and telephone from every State. Numerous contacts with private adoption agencies and various State health, welfare, adoption, and statistical offices were required in order to obtain the most complete information possible. The sources of these data are listed in Part 6 of this appendix according to the portion of each State's data they provided.

3. Survey Procedures for Data Cleanup

Nine items of adoption data were requested from every State. These are shown as items a through i in table 1 (Section IV - ADOPTION STATISTICS). and in the questionnaire specimen shown in Part 5 of this appendix. It is a survey limitation that reported numbers were not forced to consistency at the time of the survey, during the period of data collection with State representatives. Because data were frequently obtained from several different reporting sources (such as State vital statistics, State adoption agencies, and private adoption organizations), the reported numbers sometimes conflicted for the same State. The procedures used to adjust reported data in order to force internal consistency and to estimate missing data will now be discussed. In general, reported but inconsistent data were adjusted based on patterns observed in reported consistent data, and based on our professional judgment of the reliability of the reporting source and our knowledge of various State adoption nuances. Missing data were imputed, or attributed to missing adoption items, on the assumption that similar statistical patterns of adoptions exist in the States with missing data as in the States with complete data. All data were 100% verified.

The general strategy to complete table 1 (in Section IV - ADOPTION STATISTICS) was as follows:

1. Use reported data from all States to the fullest extent possible.
2. If necessary, adjust reported data to force internal consistency for items a, b, c, d, and e (related and unrelated adoptions).
3. Apply statistical distributions observed in States reporting items a, b, c, d, and e to missing items of nonreporting states using proportional distribution and inflation estimators.
4. Unrelated adoptions of healthy infants (item f) was reported by 38 States, and healthy infants represented 34.9% of unrelated adoptions (c + d + e) in those States. The sources for item f in 38 States are specified in part 6 of this appendix. Then, 34.9% of unrelated adoptions were taken in each State which did not report item f in order to estimate the number of unrelated adoptions of healthy infants.
5. Total unrelated adoptions of children from other countries (item g) was reported by 26 States, and these adoptions represented 11.4% of unrelated adoptions (c + d + e) in those States. Then, 11.4% of unrelated adoptions were taken in each State which did not report item g in order to estimate the number of adoptions of children from other countries. This procedure yielded a survey estimate of 5,752 adoptions of children from other countries. However, subsequent to the 1982 survey, data on 1982 foreign adoptions became available from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). These data included 2.6 percent of foreign adoptions where State of destination was unknown, and these were proportionately distributed by State to arrive at our "best estimate" of 5,707 foreign adoptions. It may be a testimony to the accuracy of our estimating procedures that INS reported 5,707 adoptions of children from other countries--a count which differed less than one percent from our survey estimate. This finding lends credence to the assertion that our estimating procedures for other components of our survey are relatively rigorous and accurate. The INS data are used throughout this report because we believe them to be more accurate on a State by State basis.
6. Total unrelated adoptions of children with special needs (item h) was reported by 37 States, and special needs adoptions represented 27.6% of unrelated adoptions (c + d + e) in those States. The sources for item h in these 37 States are specified in Part 6, Sources of Data Shown in Table 1. Then, 27.6% of unrelated adoptions were taken in each State which did not report item h in order to estimate the number of special needs adoptions.
7. Total adoptions of children by foster parents (item i) was reported by 29 States, and foster parent adoptions represented 18.9% of unrelated adoptions (c + d + e) in those States. The sources for item i in these 29 States are specified in part 6 which appear in Section IV - ADOPTION STATISTICS.

Then, 18.9% of unrelated adoptions were taken in each State which did not report item i in order to estimate the number of adoptions of children by foster parents.

8. State totals were then tallied to derive Division and U.S. totals. Table 1 forms the basis for tables 2 through 6.

9. NCFA's State, Division, and U.S. estimates were generated without consideration of variations in State adoption regulations.

Data cleanup was done under the guidance and supervision of Dr. Paul Placek, Survey Statistician at the National Center for Health Statistics, in his private capacity, and the support of NCHS is neither intended nor inferred.

4. Survey Limitations and Undercounts

Suspected undercounts in our own data reinforce the need for better Federal and State data on adoption. Only a well-financed Federal statistical agency has the resources to mount a more rigorous survey. We are tempted to accept without question the numbers of unrelated adoptions reported in the National Committee For Adoption's 1982 Survey, but it is possible that table 1 understates the total number of unrelated adoptions in three categories--unrelated adoptions by private agencies (estimated as 14,549); unrelated adoptions by private individuals (estimated as 16,743), and unrelated adoptions of healthy infants (estimated as 17,602). It is possible that these numbers should be regarded as minimum or conservative estimates.

In key states, there may be inconsistency in the reporting of unrelated adoptions of healthy infants and the reporting of private agency and private individual adoptions. In Texas, for example, 2,976 unrelated adoptions by private individuals were reported to NCFA. Experienced observers of the situation in Texas and knowledgeable NCFA staff believe that nearly all of these 2,976 unrelated adoptions are of healthy infants (certainly more than the 1,500 healthy infant adoptions that were reported). It might be safe to surmise that about 2,500 of the 2,976 unrelated adoptions were of healthy infants. Note further that Texas reported 1,380 unrelated adoptions by private agencies. NCFA estimates that at least half of those adoptions, or 690, were of healthy infants. Finally, if one adds unrelated adoptions by public agencies which were those of healthy infants (perhaps 100), then, at least 3,290 unrelated adoptions of healthy infants took place in Texas (2,500 + 690 + 100). Yet, the number reported by Texas officials for healthy infant adoptions is 1,500--over a 50 percent undercount. Indeed, numerous qualifications of the data offered by Texas and some other States indicated that their counts were often partial and incomplete.

If we add the Texas undercount to the undercount for other states which NCFA suspects of reporting incomplete data, the total undercount may be on the order of 7,000. Thus, there may have been 24,602 unrelated adoptions of healthy infants, not 17,602. Certainly we cannot fault the Texas adoption and vital statistics authorities, for they reported to NCFA the best numbers they had at the time, even specifying that they were incomplete counts, and NCFA did not closely examine those numbers until months after data collection was completed. Texas authorities might have revised their counts and estimates had we immediately probed wider and deeper. The point is that incomplete reporting in many States may have yielded a very conservative estimate of healtny infant adoptions.

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Looking at the 1982 NCFA survey data another way, if we subtract from the total number of adoptions (141,861) the number of related adoptions, (91,141), we have 50,720 unrelated adoptions. If we subtract from this number the 14,005 unrelated adoptions of children with special needs, we are left with 36,715 unrelated adoptions of children who do not have special needs. "Special needs" is typically defined as children in sibling groups, children with physical or mental handicaps, children over 10 years of age, and children over 2 years of age if they are members of racial or ethnic minorities. However, it is a limitation of the NCFA survey that this term was not precisely defined when data were collected. At any rate, it follows that 36,715 of the unrelated adoptions were of healthy children. We do not know how many of the 36,715 healthy children were "infants" (again, the NCFA survey is flawed because it did not operationally define infants as children under one year of age at the time of data collection), but we suspect that more than 17,602 of the 36,715 were healthy infants. Perhaps some of the children were just over the age of one when the adoptions were legally completed, hence the conservative count of healthy infants. This is reinforced by Immigration and Naturalization Service data in table 11 of this ADOPTION FACTBOOK, which showed that 23.2 percent of foreign children were age 1-4 when finally adopted, even though the whole adoption process may have started for them shortly after their birth.

The apparent disparity in numbers, caused in part by the sketchy design of NCFA's survey instrument, by our lack of operational definitions, and by incomplete data reported by States no longer used to being routinely queried about adoption are issues to be addressed if a more carefully-designed and executed survey is conducted by the Federal government. NCFA's careful notes in Part 6, "Sources of Data Shown in Table 1", may serve as a starting point for those who may attempt a more rigorous adoption survey.

In the meanwhile, NCFA staff will cite both reported State data and NCFA estimates which reflect our conjectures about possible undercounts. Furthermore, we encourage States to examine how more complete data might be assembled, and for those who actually do so, we will include those revisions in addenda and future updates of our ADOPTION FACTBOOK. That some States provided NCFA with any adoption data at all is a tribute both to their resourcefulness and willingness to be of assistance.

5. Questionnaires and Cover Letters for National Committee For Adoptions Survey

Part I

STATE ADOPTION FACTS

1. In your state how many healthy infants were adopted by unrelated persons in 1982?____________________________

2. How many children with special needs were adopted by unrelated persons in 1982?____________________________

3. How many children from other countries were adopted in 1982?_____________

4. How many adoptions of unrelated children were arranged by private individuals in 1982 (including private attorneys or other individuals, licensed or otherwise approved?)______________________

5. How many adoptions of unrelated children were arranged by private nonprofit agencies in 1982?_________________ By public agencies?__________________

6. What is the total number of adoptions in your state in 1982?_____________
Of that number, how many were related?_____________________

Name of state________________________________

SUMMARY OF STATE ADOPTION FACTS

PART II

1. In your state how many healthy infants were adopted by unrelated persons in 1982?____________________.
2. In your state how many children with special needs were adopted by unrelated persons in 1982?__________________.
3. In your state how many children from other countries were adopted in 1982?________________.
4. In your state how many adoptions of unrelated children were arranged by private individuals in 1982 (including private attorneys or other individuals licensed or otherwise approved)?______________________.
5. In your state how many adoptions of unrelated children were arranged by private nonprofit agencies in 1982?____________. By public agencies? ______________.
6. In your state what is the total number of adoptions in 1982?___________. Of that number, how many were related?_________________.
7. Is independent adoption (attorneys, non-licensed groups) legal in your state?____________________.
8. In an independent adoption is a home study required before the placement? _________________. Before finalization?_____________. Not at all?________________.
9. Is it legal for a private for-profit organization to be licensed as a child placing agency in your state?______________. If so, how many such agencies are licensed?______________.
10. Can prospective adoptive parents from another state make application for adoption in your state?_________________.
11. How many families who have been foster families (fos/adopt, "legal risk") adopted the child placed in their home for foster care in 1982?__________.
12. Does your state permit access to adoption records without a court order? ________________.
13. Are sealed records available to adoptees at age 18?___ ___ 21?________ Ever?_________.
14. How soon after the birth of the infant can the birthmother sign relinquishment papers?______________________.
15. What is the length of time given a birthmother to revoke her consent once she signs relinquishment papers?_____________________.
16. What is the length of time between filing the petition to adopt and final adoption order?__________________.

If you are unable to furnish the above information would you either give the form to the person who has the information, or forward her/her name to us. Thank you.

Name______________________________
Street_____________________________
City____________________ State____________________
Zip____________________

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION
SUITE 326
1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20036

202 - 463-7559

Dear________________:

Enclosed is a copy of SUMMARY OF STATE ADOPTION FACTS, Part I. Over the past several months you have been very helpful in responding to letters and telephone calls so that this report might be prepared. We sincerely appreciate your cooperation, and hope the total information will be useful to you.

You will note that I have also enclosed the additional questionnaire mentioned in our telephone conversation. Many of these questions, when answered, will have valuable significance as we compile them on a national basis. At the present time there is no organization or institution where this information can be obtained.

The National Committee For Adoption is a resource to the media for accurate information concerning adoption; members of Congress frequently request information, as do members of the adoption circle, agencies as well as others. We feel it is important to have answers to their questions, as well as to be able to present a positive picture of adoption. Without basic information it is difficult to do this. We appreciate your cooperation in gathering this information, and will forward a copy of the results we obtain as quickly as it is compiled.

In addition to the questionnaire, would you be able to furnish us with the following information:

A list of agencies licensed to do child placing in your state
A list of all facilities with maternity homes or group homes which are licensed or approved to provide maternity services to pregnant clients.

Please be sure to include public agencies which offer these services.

Again, thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Ione J. Simpson, MSW
Director, Public Policy and Professional Practice

6. Sources of Data Shown in Table 1

ALABAMA
a, b, f, h, i - Division of Adoption, State Department of Pensions and Security, Montgomery, Al.
c, d, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-b, and then by proportional distribution of 686 unrelated adoptions based on 25 States which reported c, d, and e.
g - Statistical Analysis Branch, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), Washington, D.C.

ALASKA
a, f - Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health and Social Services, Juneau, Ak.
b, c, d, e - Derived from proportional distribution of 693 total adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, c, d, and e.
g - INS.

ARIZONA
a, c, f, h, i - Adoption Specialist, Administration of Children, Youth and Families, Phoenix, Az.
b, d, e - Determined first by subtraction of a-c, then by proportional distribution of 739 adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
g - INS.

ARKANSAS
a, c - Division of Vital Records, Arkansas Department of Health, Little Rock, Ar.
b, d, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-c, then by proportional distribution of 1,248 adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
f, h, i - Adoption Services, Division of Social Services, Arkansas Department of Human Services, Little, Rock, Ar.
g - INS.

CALIFORNIA
a - Vital Statistics Branch, Department of Health Services, Sacramento, Ca.
b - Derived by subtraction of a-(c + d + e).
c, d, e, f, h - Data from Adoptions Branch, Department of Social Services, Sacramento, Ca.
g - INS.

COLORADO
a, c, d, h - Adoption Program Supervisor, Colorado Department of Social Services, Denver, Co.
b, e - Derived first by subtraction of a-(c + d), then by proportional distribution of 2,230 adoptions based on 25 States which reported b and e.
g - INS.

CONNECTICUT
a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Supervisor of Licensure of Child Placing Agencies, Department of Children and Youth Services, Hartford, Ct. Category b, reported as 630, was increased to 659 to force consistency of subtotals b, c, d, and e with total a. Category e reported as zero since private adoptions not legal.
g - INS.

DELAWARE
a, f, h, i - Data from Adoption Coordinator, Division of Child Protective Services, Wilmington, De. Unrelated adoptions of children with special needs refer to those on adoption subsidy program.
b, c, d - Proportions of these types of adoptions were estimated collaboratively by the Division of Child Protective Services and the National Committee For Adoption. These proportions were applied to total adoptions to derive the numbers shown.
e - Private adoptions not permitted.
g - INS.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
a - Vital Records Branch, Research and Statistics Division, Department of Human Services, Washington, D.C.
c, f, h - Child and Family Services Division, Department of Human Services, Washington, D.C.
b, d, e - After subtracting c from a to derive a total of 697 adoptions for b + d + e, the 697 were distributed proportionately according to 25 States which reported b + d + e.
g - INS.

FLORIDA
a - Public Health Statistics, Office of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville, Fl. Number given is total birth certificate amendments.
c, d, e, h, i - Data from Children, Youth and Families Program Office, Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services, Tallahassee, Fl.
g - INS.

GEORGIA
a, b, c, d, e, - Data from Social Services Consultant, Department of Human Resources, Atlanta, Ga.
g - INS.

HAWAII
a, b, c, d, e, f, i - Assistant Program Administrator, Adoption and Foster Care, Department of Social Services and Housing, Honolulu, Hawaii. However, the subtotal of b + c + d + e was 557, and so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 8.3% to make them consistent with the reported total of 603. Category f includes children of all ages.
g - INS.

IDAHO
a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - State Adoptions Coordinator, Bureau of Social Services, Department of Health and Welfare, Boise, Id.
g - INS.

ILLINOIS
a, b, f - Division of Vital Records, Department of Public Health, Springfield, Il.
c, h - Office of Program Development and Support, Department of Children and Family Services, Springfield, Il.
c, f, h - Data for fiscal year 1982-83, rather than calendar year 1982.
c - Includes adoptions completed by private agencies through a purchase of service agreement.
f - Includes healthy infants and special needs infants.
h - Public agency placements only.

d, e - Derived first from subtraction of the difference between a-(b + c), and then by proportional distribution of this difference based on 25 States which reported d and e.
g - INS.

INDIANA
a - Division of Vital Records, Indiana State Board of Health, Indianapolis, Indiana.
b, c, d, e, f, h, i - The Department of Public Welfare, State of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana provided these data. However, subtotal of categories b + c + d + e totalled to 24% lower than the 4,783 total provided by the Division of Vital Records. Therefore, data reported for b, c, d, and e were proportionately inflated to be consistent with the vital records total, which was presumed to provide a more complete count.
g - INS.

IOWA
a, b, c, d, e, f, i - All data from the Iowa Department of Human Services, Adoption Program, Des Moines, Iowa.
g - INS.

KANSAS
a, f - Data from Bureau of Registration and Health Statistics, State Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kansas.
b, c, d, e - Derived from proportional distribution of 2,498 total adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, c, d, and e.
h, i - Data from Adoption Coordinator, Child Protection and Family Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kansas.
g - INS.

KENTUCKY
a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Adoption Specialist, Cabinet for Human Resources, Department for Social Services, Frankfort, Ky. However, the reported subtotal of b + c + d + e was 1,248, so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 1.8% to make them consistent with the reported total of 1,270.
g - INS.

LOUISIANA
a, c, d, e, h, i - Adoptions Unit, Office of Human Development, Department of Health and Human Resources, New Orleans, La. Total adoptions (a) represents number of petitions filed, and all data are for the FY 1983-84 period.
b - Calculated by subtraction of a - (c + d + e).
g - INS.

MAINE
a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Department of Human Services, Augusta, Me. Item h includes State handled adoptions only.
g - INS.

MARYLAND
a, b, c, d, e - Data from Adoption Program Manager, Department of Human Resources, Social Services Administration, Baltimore, Md. Item e calculated by subtracting b + c + d from a. Item f includes healthy infants and special needs infants age two and under. Item h represents adoptions by non-relatives; special needs breakdown not available.
g - INS.

MASSACHUSETTS
a - Annual Report of the Trial Court, Office of Administrative Justice, Boston, Ma.
b, d - Derived by subtraction of c from a, and by proportional distribution of adoptions based on 25 States which reported b and d.
c, f, h, i - Executive Office of Human Services, Department of Social Services, Boston, Ma. Item c includes adoptions done by public agency plus certain adoptions done by private agencies under purchase of service agreement. Also, relatedness of children to families is not known. Item f includes children ages 3 and under.
e - Independent adoptions are illegal in Massachusetts, according to Department of Social Services.
g - INS.

MICHIGAN
a - Center for Health Statistics, Department of Public Health, Lansing, Mi.
b, d, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-c, and then by proportional distribution based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
c, f, h, i - Data from publication by Office of Children and Youth Services, Michigan Department of Social Services (MDSS) for FY 1982-83. Includes adoptions made by private agencies and children who were in MDSS care. Item f includes children ages 0-5 who are healthy and special needs MDSS children. Item h includes only public subsidized adoptions.
g - INS.

MINNESOTA
a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Adoption Supervisor, Minnesota Department of Human Services, St. Paul, Mn. Item f includes foreign born and handicapped adoptees under 12 months of age.
g - INS.

MISSISSIPPI
a - Public Health Statistics, State Board of Health, Jackson, Ms.
b, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-(c + d), and then by proportional distribution of 1,441 adoptions based on 25 States which reported these values.
c, d, f, h, i - Estimated by the Children's Defense Fund, Jackson, Ms.
g - INS.

MISSOURI
a - State Center for Health Statistics, Missouri Division of Health, Jefferson City, Missouri.
b, d, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-c, and then by proportional distribution based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
c - Division of Social Services, Division of Family Services, Jefferson City, Missouri.
g - INS.

MONTANA
a, b, c, d - Community Services Division, and Bureau of Records and Statistics, both in State Department of Health and Environmental Sciences, Helena, Mt.
e - Derived by subtraction of a-(b + c + d).
g - INS.

NEBRASKA
a - Nebraska Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, Lincoln, Nebraska. This is the number of adoptive birth certificates filed with the

Bureau of Vital Statistics during 1982. However, it includes late filings for persons of all ages.
c, d - Estimates of 120 unrelated adoptions (c) by public agencies and 270 adoptions by private agencies (d) were obtained by compiling estimates and counts from various State and private agencies.
b, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-(c + d), and then by proportional distribution based on 25 States which reported these values.
f, h, i - Estimated by specialists in State and private adoption agencies.
g - INS.

NEVADA

a - Section of Vital Statistics, Division of Health, Carson City, NV.
b - Derived by subtraction of a-(c + d + e).
c, d, e, i - Adoption Welfare Division, Nevada Department of Human Resources, Carson City, NV.
f, h - Data obtained from Adoption Welfare Division and by contacting all private adoption agencies.
g - INS.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

a - Bureau of Vital Records and Health Statistics, Department of Health and Welfare, Concord, NH.
b, c, d, e - Derived from proportional distribution of 607 total adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, c, d, and e.
g - INS.

NEW JERSEY

a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Adoption Unit, Division of Youth and Family Services, Trenton, NJ reported 1,668 unrelated adoptions (581 public agency adoptions, 209 adoptions by private agencies, and 878 direct placements by the birth parent to the adoptive parent with no intermediary) but had no data on related adoptions or total adoptions. Therefore, the ratio of unrelated adoptions to related adoptions for 25 States which reported these data was used to estimate 3,430 related adoptions and 5,098 total adoptions. Item f includes healthy infants and special needs infants.
g - INS.

NEW MEXICO

a - Vital Statistics Bureau, Health Services Division, Health and Environment Department, Santa Fe, NM.
c, d, e, f, i - Field Services Bureau, New Mexico Social Services Division, Santa Fe, NM.
b - Derived by subtraction of a-(c + d + e).
g - INS.

NEW YORK

a - Estimate by State of New York Unified Court System, Office of Court Administration, NY, NY.
b, d, and e - Estimated by proportional distribution of 7,330 related and unrelated adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
c, h, i - State Adoption Supervisor, Division of Child and Adult Services, Albany, NY. Includes only State adoptions. Item h refers to children adopted with subsidy.
g - INS.

NORTH CAROLINA

a, b, c, d, e - Supervisor of Adoptions, Division of Social Services, Department of Human Resource, Raleigh, NC. However, the reported subtotal of b + c + d + e was 3,506, so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 1.0% to make them consistent with the reported total of 3,547.
g - INS.

NORTH DAKOTA

a, b, d - North Dakota Department of Human Services, Bismark, ND.
c, e - Derived first by subtraction of a-(b + d), and then by proportional distribution based on 25 States which reported c and e.
f, h - Registrar for Vital Statistics, North Dakota State Department of Health, Bismark, ND.
g - INS.

OHIO

a - Division of Vital Statistics, Columbus, Oh. Includes all adoptions for which DVS prepared new birth certificates.
b - Calculated by subtraction of c, d, and e from a.
c, d, e - Ohio Department of Human Services, Columbus, Oh. Based on counts from 67 of 88 Ohio counties, and therefore represents a conservative count. The 483 unrelated adoptions by private agencies may include related adoptions.
g - INS.

OKLAHOMA

a, c, d, h, i - Adoption Unit, Division of Child Welfare, Department of Human Services, Oklahoma City, Ok.
b, e - Derived first by subtraction of a-(c + d), then by proportional distribution of 2,302 adoptions based on 25 States which reported b and e.
g - INS.

OREGON

a, c, d, e, f - Adoption Unit, Children's Services Division, 198 Commercial St., S.E., Salem, Or. Data are for FY 1982-83.
b - Calculated by subtraction of a-(c + d + e).
g - INS.

PENNSYLVANIA

a, c - Office of Children, Youth and Families, Office of Social Services, Harrisburg, Pa.
b, d, and e - Derived first by subtraction of c from a, and then by proportional distribution of 3,226 related, unrelated private agency, and unrelated private individual adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
g - INS.

RHODE ISLAND

a - Division of Vital Statistics, Department of Health, Providence, RI.
b - Determined by subtracting of a-(c + d + e).
c, d, e, f, h, i - Department for Children and Their Families, Division of Direct Services, Providence, RI. The count of 80 adoptions by private agencies in item d is a minimum estimate since it only includes data from two private agencies. Items f and h include data from only two agencies and are therefore incomplete.
g - INS.

SOUTH CAROLINA

a, b, c, d, e - Office of Vital Records and Public Health Statistics, Columbia, SC. However, the reported subtotal of b + c + d + e was 1,813, so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 2.7% to make them consistent with the reported total of 1,863.

f, h, i - Adoption Unit, Division of Children and Family Services, South Carolina Department of Social Services, Columbia, SC. These totals represent public agency placements only, and are therefore incomplete.

g - INS.

SOUTH DAKOTA

a, b, c, d, e, f, h - Department of Social Services, Office of Children, Youth and Family Services, Pierre, South Dakota. However, subtotal of categories b + c + d + e totalled to 40% lower than the total adoptions reported for a. Therefore, data reported for b, c, d, and e were proportionately inflated to be consistent with the total for a.

g - INS.

TENNESSEE

a, b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Adoption Casework Services, Department of Human Services, Nashville, Tn. However, the reported subtotal of b + c + d + e was 2,690, so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 3.2% to make them consistent with the reported total of 2,777. Items f, h, and i do not include placements by private agencies, and are therefore incomplete.

g - INS.

TEXAS

a - Bureau of Vital Statistics, Texas Department of Health, Austin, Tx.

b, c, d, f, h - Adoption Coordinator, Department of Human Resources, Austin, Tx. Items b, f, and h only represent estimates of placements by State, and are therefore incomplete.

e - Derived by subtraction of a-(b + c + d).

g - INS.

UTAH

a, b, e, f - Bureau of Health Statistics, Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake City, Ut.

c, d - Derived first by subtraction of a-(b + e), then by proportional distribution of 440 adoptions based on 25 States which reported c and d.

h - Division of Family Services, Utah Department of Health, Salt Lake City, Ut. Represents State placements only, and therefore represents a conservative count.

g - INS.

VERMONT

a, c, d, e, f, h, i - Adoption Unit, Division of Social Services, Waterbury, VT.

b - Calculated by subtracting a - (c + d + e)

g - INS.

VIRGINIA

a, b, c, d, e, f - Child Welfare Supervisor, Department of Social Services, Richmond, VA. However, the reported subtotal of b + c + d + e was 2,906, so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 4.5% to make them consistent with

the reported total. Item e represents direct placement by natural parents; independent adoptions are illegal in Virginia. Item f includes children of all ages.
g - INS.

WASHINGTON
a, b, c, d, e, f, h - Adoption Demonstration Project, Bureau of Children's Services, Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Olympia, WA. However, the subtotal of b + c + d + e was 2,240 and so b, c, d, and e were each increased by 5.1% to make them consistent with the reported total of 2,356.
g - INS.

WEST VIRGINIA
a - Health Statistics Center, Office of Health Planning and Evaluation, Department of Health, Charleston, WV.
b, d, e - Derived first from subtraction of a-c, then by proportional distribution of 1,789 adoptions based on 25 States which reported b, d, and e.
c - Foster Case and Adoption Specialist, Division of Social Services, Department of Human Services, Charleston, WV.
f - Division of Vital Statistics, West Virginia Department of Health, Charleston, WV. Includes both healthy and special needs infants.
g - INS.

WISCONSIN
a - Bureau of Health Statistics, Division of Health, Madison, Wisconsin.
b, c, d, e, f, h, i - Bureau for Children, Youth and Families, Division of Community Services, Department of Health and Social Services, Madison, Wisconsin provided these data, and stated that unrelated adoptions by private individuals are illegal (hence the zero total for e). However, the subtotal of categories b, c, and d totalled to 18% lower than the 2,754 total provided by the Bureau of Health Statistics. Therefore, data reported for b, c, and d were proportionately inflated to be consistent with the vital records total which was presumed to provide a more complete count.
g - INS.

WYOMING
a, b, e - Estimated by using reported data for c and d, and assuming that these two numbers represented 22.2% of total adoptions, as they did in 25 States where a-e were reported. After the total of 252 adoptions was derived, proportional distribution of a, b, and e was done based on 25 States where a, b, and e were reported.
c, d, f - Division of Public Assistance and Social Services, Hathaway Building, Cheyenne, Wy.
g - INS.

Other

PUERTO RICO

In FY 1982-83, Department of Social Services, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, San Juan, Puerto Rico, reported (a) 214 total adoptions including (b) 124 total related adoptions. Of unrelated adoptions, 47 were arranged by public and private agencies, 19 by parents or other relatives, and 1 by other individuals. There were (f) 63 unrelated adoptions of healthy infants, and (h) 8 unrelated adoptions of children with special needs.

GUAM

The Division of Vital Statistics of Guam reported a total of 46 adoptions in 1982.

NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION
2025 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

E. ORDER FORM FOR PUBLICATIONS & MATERIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE N.C.F.A. BOOKSTORE

The the NCFA Bookstore: Please send me the books or provide me with the items indicated below.

Number	Book Title	Item Price	Total Price
	SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION, by Plumez	$14.95	
	UNDERSTANDING ADOPTION, by Spencer	1.95	
	NCFA PAMPHLETS for prospective parents	2.00	
	CHOSEN CHILDREN, by Feigelman & Silverman	24.95	
	AN ADOPTOR'S ADVOCATE, by Johnstone	6.95	
	YOUR CHILD'S SELF ESTEEM, by Briggs	6.95	
	THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS OF LIFE, by Caplan	9.95	
	THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF LIFE, by White	5.95	
	ADOPTING THE OLDER CHILD, by Jewett	8.95	
	MIXED FAMILIES, by Ladner	3.95	
	ORIENTAL CHILDREN IN AMERICAN HOMES, by Koh	12.00	
	THE HANDBOOK FOR SINGLE ADOPTIVE PARENTS, by Marindin	6.00	
	INFERTILITY: A GUIDE FOR THE CHILDLESS COUPLE, by Menning	4.95	
	NCFA PAMPHLET on infertility	.50	
	REPRINT ON THE PSYCHOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS OF INFERTILITY, by Kraft et al	.75	
	YOU'RE OUR CHILD, by Smith & Miroff	8.25	
	WHY WAS I ADOPTED?, by Livingston	10.00	
	HOW IT FEELS TO BE ADOPTED, by Krementz	11.95	
	SO YOU'RE ADOPTED, by Powledge	9.95	
	IT'S FUN TO BE ME, by Long & Smulcer	2.40	
	A PARENT'S GUIDE TO INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION, by Taylor, revised by Laning	4.50	
	DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ON INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTIONS	2.00	
	THE IMMIGRATION OF ADOPTED AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE CHILDREN, by INS	1.75	
	NCFA'S MEMO (for agency members and $1,000+ contributors)		
	NCFA'S UNMARRIED PARENTS TODAY ($200+ annual contribution)		
	NCFA'S NATIONAL ADOPTION REPORTS ($50 minimum contribution)		
	NCFA'S DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES		
	NCFA'S MINI-POSTERS (minimum of 10)		
	Complete Poster	.10	
	With Space Imprint	.10	
	THE ADOPTION OPTION: IS IT FOR YOU (minimum of 20)	.10	
	IF PARENTS WERE HIRED (minimum of 20)	.10	
	NCFA'S HOTLINE TRAINING MANUAL	6.20	
	ORIENTATIONS OF PREGNANCY COUNSELORS TOWARD ADOPTION, by Mech	30.00	
	NCFA'S MODEL ACT FOR THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS	6.00	
	NCFA'S MODEL ACT TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL CONSENT REGISTRY	2.00	
	NCFA'S MODEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FORM	.50	
	NCFA'S ANNUAL REPORT (single copy free)	(send self-addressed, stamped envelopes for these free items)	
	LIST OF NCFA'S MEMBER AGENCIES (single copy free)		

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MAIL THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK TO: NCFA, 2025 M Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE THROUGH THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ADOPTION

FOR PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE PARENTS

SUCCESSFUL ADOPTION: A GUIDE TO FINDING A CHILD AND RAISING A FAMILY, Plumez, $14.95. This hardcover book, published in 1982, is the best and most comprehensive book for people considering adoption. Must reading, as it covers many of the questions and issues in adoption today.

UNDERSTANDING ADOPTION AS A FAMILY-BUILDING OPTION, Spencer, $1.95. This booklet is very useful because it combines discussion of the adoptive family in the context of human society with consideration of some of the language used to describe adoption.

NCFA PAMPHLETS. Four of our own items, "Adoption Today," "So You're Interested in Adopting a Child," "Special Needs Adoption," and "Children From Other Lands," offer a brief look at adoption. All four, $2.00.

CHOSEN CHILDREN: NEW PATTERNS OF ADOPTIVE RELATIONSHIPS, Feigelman and Silverman, $24.95. Tells about outcome of children adopted across racial and ethnic lines. Compares children adopted from Korea and Colombia as well as Afro-American (Black) and White backgrounds. Reassuring for adoptive parents. Has flawed discussion of adoption records controversy.

AN ADOPTOR'S ADVOCATE, Johnston, $6.95. This paperback deals with infertility and deals with the adoption process from the adoptor's point of view. Good for agencies to read, too.

HELPS FOR RAISING YOUR CHILD

YOUR CHILD'S SELF ESTEEM, Briggs, $6.95. Self-image is your child's most important characteristic. How to help create strong feelings of self-worth is the central challenge for every parent and teacher. This book is one of the best books on child guidance. It is simple, practical and consistently constructive in handling the endless questions that arise in any family.

THE FIRST TWELVE MONTHS OF LIFE, Caplan, $9.95. An excellent book in paperback. Easily read and followed; has growth charts showing how baby develops socially, emotionally, physically and cognitively. There are actual photographs with easy-to-do activities to stimulate the growth and development of your baby.

HELPS FOR RAISING YOUR CHILD (cont'd.)

THE FIRST THREE YEARS OF LIFE, White, $5.95. This book has the benefit of research done at Harvard University. It is more theory and gives a number of studies and ideas as to what behavior is. It also tells the kinds of toys and activities to be used for each age.

SPECIAL INTERESTS—ADOPTING OLDER CHILDREN

ADOPTING THE OLDER CHILD, Jewett, $8.95. An excellent book by an experienced counselor, herself the adoptive parent of older children.

SPECIAL INTERESTS—CHILDREN OF OTHER RACES

MIXED FAMILIES, Ladner, $3.95. A good introduction to the history of and issues involved in transracial (mainly Black/White) adoptions in the U.S.

ORIENTAL CHILDREN IN AMERICAN HOMES: HOW DO THEY ADJUST?, Koh, $12.00. Although this book has many shortcomings, it is a useful first book for the person who is thinking about adopting from Asia.

SPECIAL INTERESTS—SINGLE PARENT ADOPTION

THE HANDBOOK FOR SINGLE ADOPTIVE PARENTS, Marindin, $6.00. A useful resource, covering many aspects of this parenting choice.

INFERTILITY

INFERTILITY: A GUIDE FOR THE CHILDLESS COUPLE, Menning, $4.95. The basic book on the subject by the founder of Resolve, a national self-help group working on infertility issues.

NCFA PAMPHLET. "Infertility, Childlessness and You," featuring a brief discussion of some of the issues and concerns people have, is 50¢.

REPRINT. "The Psychological Dimensions of Infertility," Kraft et al, is 75¢. This reprint from the American Journal of Orthopsychiatry examines the reactions of couples applying to an adoption agency and theorizes that infertility should be resolved to improve chances for successful adoptive parenting.

DISCUSSING ADOPTION WITH CHILDREN

YOU'RE OUR CHILD, Smith & Miroff, $8.00. This book deals mostly with the questions of those who've adopted a healthy infant, including the question of "how to tell the child he's adopted" and other issues. A book every couple should read before they decide to explore adoption.

WHY WAS I ADOPTED?, Livingston, $10.00. This is the standard picture book for young children on the questions about adoption. Include illustrations of transracial and single-parent adoptions. Buy before or after you adopt.

HOW IT FEELS TO BE ADOPTED, Krementz, $11.95. An excellent book, featuring interviews with and pictures of adolescents who were adopted, that can serve many purposes. Excellent for the young adult to read alone. Also a good basis for discussion with the whole family, especially when NCFA's *Study Guide*, especially prepared for use with this book, is used. The *Study Guide* is free to those who buy the book through the NCFA Bookstore. A book by teens.

SO YOU'RE ADOPTED, Powledge, $9.95. This book is written about and for teens, and it's a balanced discussion of what adoption means to various people. Puts adoption, as one of life's experiences, into context. It doesn't patronize.

IT'S FUN TO BE ME, Long and Smulcer. A coloring book to help parents explain adoption to their children. Positive, fun, low-key! $2.40.

SPECIAL INTERESTS—CHILDREN OF OTHER CULTURES

A PARENT'S GUIDE TO INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION, Taylor, revised by Laning. Contributions by experienced parents discussing the challenge of adopting a foreign child of different heritage, initial adjustment, etc. Full of information. $4.50.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE DATA ON INTER-AMERICAN ADOPTIONS, reprinted from S. 2299 *Hearings* in U.S. Senate March 16, 1984. Brief hints for those who are considering any foreign adoption, numbers of adoptions from foreign countries, country-by-country discussions of Americas. 20 pp., $2.00.

THE IMMIGRATION OF ADOPTED AND PROSPECTIVE ADOPTIVE CHILDREN, Immigration and Naturalization Service. This is *the* basic primer for anyone thinking about adopting a child from outside the U.S. Invaluable to prospective adoptive parents and agencies alike. $1.75.

NCFA PERIODICALS

NCFA publishes three periodicals. They are *MEMO*, *National Adoption Reports*, and *Unmarried Parents Today*.

MEMO. A news and information service, published at least every other week, especially useful to administrators of agencies providing adoption services, services to young, single or troubled parents or services to infertile couples. *MEMO* also provides updates on legislative and regulatory changes at the Federal and State levels. *MEMO* is only available as a part of membership, and the membership must either be in the category of Associate, Chairman's Club or Agency. Associate membership is for agencies (including public agencies) which are interested in the work of NCFA but which do not qualify for agency membership. *MEMO* and all other periodicals are provided to Associate members as part of their benefits. Associate dues are $500 per year. Chairman's Club members are those individuals who wish to be actively involved with NCFA and who wish to be informed in detail about all developments. These individuals pay dues of at least $1,000 per year. Agency members meet qualifications for membership and pay dues based on their service programs, but not less than $1,000 per year. All Chairman's Club members and Agency members receive all of NCFA's periodicals as well as other membership benefits.

UNMARRIED PARENTS TODAY. This newsletter is published at least six times per year and is especially useful to those who operate maternity services, including residential programs such as maternity homes. *UPT* also provides information about grants made by the Federal Office of Adolescent Pregnancy Programs. Available to all membership categories with dues in excess of $200 per year.

NATIONAL ADOPTION REPORTS. This newsletter, published every other month, is especially useful to individuals who are concerned about adoption. The newsletter has information for those who have already adopted and is of use to those who are considering adoption. The newsletter features information about research that relates to adoption, highlights of developments that occur in Washington, D.C. and the state legislatures affecting adoption, news about court developments, information about media coverage affecting adoption attitudes, and book reviews. Special emphasis is given to child development information which will assist adoptive parents. *NAR* is sent to all categories of NCFA membership. The minimum NCFA membership is $50 per year.

NCFA MATERIALS FOR OUTREACH

NCFA publishes or makes available a variety of materials that are designed to help tell potential maternity clients about an agency's services. These materials include: a Directory of Resources, mini-posters and brochures designed for free distribution.

DIRECTORY OF RESOURCES. NCFA's Second Edition of this Directory is at the press—and it has many new listings, especially of the growing network of church groups offering maternity and adoption services. Use it to improve coordination among the various programs and services related to adoption and counseling of unwed mothers. Each listing has been specifically confirmed by groups wishing to be contacted. Has hundreds of adoption agencies listed, including details on all NCFA members. More than 500 listings. $18.

MINI-POSTERS. NCFA's popular 8½" x 11" poster advertises the National Adoption Hotline as well as sends a positive message about adoption to those with untimely or troubled pregnancies. The poster features an attractive baby and carries the message "I Know My Baby Will Be Part of a Loving Family Because I'm Choosing Adoption." Available in two formats. One format has a space for imprint of a local agency or resource. The other features the NCFA Hotline number. Be sure and stipulate which format you prefer: complete poster or poster with imprint space. 10¢ each, 10 minimum order.

BROCHURES. NCFA has distributed thousands of these bright, attractive, triple fold brochures. *THE ADOPTION OPTION: IS IT FOR YOU?,* purple and pink, it promotes adoption as a positve option, suitable for widespread free distribution. *IF PARENTS WERE HIRED,* NCFA's newer brochure, is a two-color flyer which focuses on teens' capability to be single parents. Both have space for local imprint. 10¢ each, 20 minimum each order.

HOTLINE TRAINING MANUAL. This 62-page manual was developed by NCFA for use in training hotline volunteers. It includes sections on listening and communication skills, guidelines for handling hotline calls, and specific information about adoption topics. Designed to be sensitive to attitudes of diverse callers. $6.20.

NCFA REPRINT SERIES

ORIENTATIONS OF PREGNANCY COUNSELORS TOWARD ADOPTION, Mech. This major groundbreaking study from the University of Illinois points up new directions for all those working with pregnant clients. Publication contains entire text of Dr. Mech's findings, plus instruments. In addition, NCFA has prepared a summary and commentary, which are included. More than 300 pages, spiral-bound, offset. $30.

NCFA MODEL LEGISLATION SERIES

MODEL ACT FOR THE ADOPTION OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, WITH SECTION-BY-SECTION COMMENTS AND ANALYSIS. This is the final and official version of the Model Act issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on October 8, 1981. This replaces the *Draft Model State Adoption Act,* which caused a storm of controversy in 1979-81 because of its emphasis on open records and other practices of a questionable professional nature. 60 pages, $6.00.

MODEL ACT TO ESTABLISH A MUTUAL CONSENT ADOPTION REGISTRY. This model act, which was drafted by NCFA after extensive discussions and public meetings across the U.S., is the model which has been used by many states in drafting their own registry laws. The Model Act provides language not only for the establishment of a voluntary registry but also for disclosure of non-identifying information. Orders for this model also receive a *free* copy of NCFA's newly-prepared *MODEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FORM,* a seven-page form which can be used by local agencies and which can be a model for states to consider as they mandate the provision of non-identifying information to adoptive parents and adult adopted persons. 16 pp., $2.00.

NCFA'S MODEL BACKGROUND INFORMATION FORM. This 7-page form is prepared to be used in connection with any Mutual Consent Adoption Registry. Specifically designed to fit with NCFA's Model Registry as the means whereby non-identifying information can be transmitted. 7 pages, 50¢.

FREE ITEMS

NCFA'S ANNUAL REPORT. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Put "Annual Report" on it.

NCFA'S MEMBER AGENCIES. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Put "Member Agencies" on it.